

President Sadat gets official invitation to Jerusalem peace talks

At a packed session in Jerusalem, the Knesset overwhelmingly approved an invitation to President Sadat of Egypt to visit Israel and address the House on his peace proposals. Mr Sadat, who leaves today for talks in Damascus, has

said he is ready to fly to Israel "within a week". Israeli ministers were shocked today by Lieutenant-General Gur, the chief of staff, who suggested that President Sadat's peace feeler might be a feint to cover a projected military attack

Plain Master Phillips weighed 7lbs 9oz when born a short yell from Paddington station

The Queen visits hospital for first glimpse of her grandson

The Queen arrived at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, last night for her first glimpse of her grandson, who was born to Princess Anne at 10.46 am yesterday.

Smiling broadly, she waved to an enthusiastic crowd when she arrived. Capt Mark Phillips had returned to visit his wife.

For several hours a crowd of nearly two hundred, including many children, had waited in the cold for a glimpse of the Queen.

The Queen left the hospital after half an hour. The crowd burst into spontaneous applause and cheering as she entered her car.

Alan Hamilton writes: Plain Master Phillips, the first royal baby to be born a commoner for more than 500 years, weighed 7lb 9oz at birth. He and his mother were in good health last night.

The birth took place in the maternity unit of the hospital's Lady Wing, a short flight from the base of Paddington station, in the presence of Captain Mark Phillips and Mr George Pinker, the Queen's gynaecologist, who is a consultant at St Mary's. The archaic practice of having a minister of the Crown present at royal births was discontinued before the arrival of the Prince of Wales.

The first public news of the birth was given by the Queen during an investiture at Buckingham Palace half an hour after the event. Within an hour official announcements were posted on the railings of Buckingham Palace and the Home Office in Whitehall.

On the hospital steps three members of the Guild of Professional Toastmasters, who had arrived with a present of a 6lb box of liqueur chocolates for the Princess, held an impromptu champagne party.

The baby, whose name has not yet been announced, is the first grandchild for the Queen and the first great-grandchild of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Princess Anne was driven by her husband to the hospital at 4 am yesterday, and occupied a sparsely furnished 535-day private room decorated only by a picture of a horse, which the hospital said was a coincidence.

Shortly after the birth the Princess spoke by telephone to the Queen, and Captain Phillips spoke to his parents at Great Somford, Wiltshire, where a flag was hoisted and the church bells were rung.

The news was relayed to the Duke of Edinburgh in Germany, the Prince of Wales in Yorkshire, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward at Gordonstoun, the Home Secretary, Mr Rees, and Governors-General of the Commonwealth.

Members of The Honourable Artillery Company fired a 41-gun salute at the Tower of London. A second salute would



Captain Phillips congratulated by well-wishers outside the hospital on his arrival to visit Princess Anne.

have been fired by soldiers of The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, in Hyde Park, but they were on stand-by firefighting duty because of the firemen's strike.

Master Phillips arrived one day too late to coincide with the fourth wedding anniversary of his parents and the twenty-ninth birthday of his uncle, the Prince of Wales. His arrival will nevertheless cause maternal hearts to flutter throughout the land, and other places as well, although few members of the public made

their way to the hospital doorway, deterred no doubt by the biting wind and the difficulty of finding such an unprepossessing back street behind a railway terminus.

Yesterday the Prime Minister sent a telegram of congratulation to Princess Anne and wrote a message of good wishes to the Queen on behalf of the entire House of Commons except Mr William Hamilton, MP, who, when told the news, commented: "How charming; another one on the payroll."

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Overwhelming vote in Knesset

From Moshe Brilliant

Tel Aviv, Nov 15
Minutes after the Knesset had agreed to invite President Sadat for peace talks in Jerusalem, Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, met the United States Ambassador this evening in the Parliament building. Before a mass of cameras and microphones he handed the envoy an official invitation to be transmitted to the Egyptians through the American Ambassador in Cairo.

The historic move was made despite an extraordinary statement today by Lieutenant-General Mordechai Gur, the Israeli Chief of Staff, suggesting that President Sadat's talk of a Jerusalem visit might be a "deception" like that before Egypt's sudden onslaught against Israel at Yom Kippur, 1973.

The general said the Egyptians had in recent months heightened their preparations for a war "with the approach of 1978 and perhaps earlier". They had prepared a huge system of fortifications in Sinai which could absorb five divisions in a matter of hours.

Government leaders were shocked by the timing of the general's statement, although they did not dispute its content. Mr Ezer Weizman, the Defence Minister, said the general had acted beyond his competence.

Replying with unprecedented speed to four parliamentary questions, Mr Weizman said the Government and the Israeli defence forces were alert to the "military preparations in Arab countries". But he added, the Chief of Staff had no business linking these with a possible visit by the President of Egypt. He said he would summon General Gur to explain his statement.

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receiving an official invitation, said tonight that if the President arrived at the start of next week he would postpone his own planned visit to London.

If Mr Sadat came later in the week, Mr Begin said he would cut short his European visit and be at the airport to receive the guest and drive with him to Jerusalem.

A report from the airport tonight said instructions had been received to remove the red carpet from the tarmac. The airport manager said he was ready for the historical event except that he lacked an Egyptian flag.

Parliament was packed for today's dramatic session. Mr Begin denied his purpose in inviting the Egyptian leader had been to drive a wedge between Egypt and the other Arab states. He declared solemnly: "From this platform I invite for peace negotiations President Assad of Syria, King Hussein of Jordan and President Sadat of Lebanon."

"What about Yasser Arafat of the PLO?" chimed in Mr Wilner, a Communist. "You may interrupt me," the Prime Minister replied good-naturedly, "but when President Sadat stands on this rostrum, don't interrupt."

The small Communist faction was the only one critical of the development. Their spokesman said it was an American sponsored move which would not bring peace.

The feeling among other speakers was that there had been an historic breakthrough, whether or not the visit came off. Mr Wolf of the Democratic Movement for Change said the applause in Parliament for Mr Sadat's announcement shattered the legend that no Arab leader could speak of peace with Israel.

Mr Wolf said Mr Sadat's statement that he wished to come as soon as possible after

the invitation of Prime Minister, or Mr Sadat.

The spokesman insisted that a definitive peace in the Middle East could only come with a comprehensive settlement and that this would be achieved through reconvening the Geneva peace conference.

In last night's television interview, President Sadat, speaking in English, said: "We are at a crucial moment. There has never been a suitable moment in the Arab world to reach genuine peace like we are now, so I want to put the facts before them (the Israelis), and at the same time we want to discuss what will be the other alternative if we can't achieve peace. It would be horrible, believe me, horrible."

Mr Cronkite then interviewed Mr Begin (via television satellite) and told him of Mr Sadat's statement. The Prime Minister replied: "Very good news. If President Sadat is ready to come next week, if he says that he will come next week, I will have to postpone my trip to Britain because I am supposed to go next Sunday to London

at the invitation of Prime Minister Callaghan.

"I suppose that Mr Callaghan will also be agreeable to postpone that meeting for a week and have President Sadat in Jerusalem because it gives him time to have peace in the Middle East."

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Callaghan made it known yesterday that he will not be offended should Mr Begin decide to postpone his visit in order to receive President Sadat.

All the preparations are going ahead for Mr Begin's visit, due to take place on November 20 to 23. But last night Downing Street was making quite seriously the possibility that President Sadat might accept Mr Begin's invitation.

In the British Government's view, such a visit would be a significant move in furthering a dialogue in the Middle East. It would, therefore, if Mr Begin's visit had to be postponed.

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kept up his peace initiative, telling visiting American Congressmen that as soon as he received an Israeli invitation he was ready to go to discuss a Middle East peace settlement.

In another move to speed up resumption of the Geneva talks, Mr Sadat had earlier urged all parties to drop procedural bickering, saying he did not care about procedure.

Throughout his peace offensive, Mr Sadat has reassured that Egypt will not sign a separate peace treaty with Israel nor set aside the Palestine issue.

Today he reiterated that the Palestinian problem was the core of the Middle East conflict and "for this, the Palestinian presence in a single Arab Delegation (at Geneva talks) is necessary".

Mr Sadat, who is due to leave here for Syria tomorrow, said his flight to Damascus was not linked with his proposal to visit Israel. It had been planned before he made his declaration.

President Assad of Syria could not impose anything on him, Mr Sadat said, nor could he impose anything on the Syrian President. Nevertheless observers here believe that Mr Sadat will explain his peace initiative in the Damascus talks.

Syria has so far made no comment on President Sadat's offer to go to Israel.

The Egyptian official Middle East News Agency, in a report from Washington, today identified the American proposed of Palestinian origin, professor but not named by President Sadat, as a delegate to the Geneva conference. The agency said he was Dr. Edward Said, a professor of English at Columbia University, New York.

Dr Said is a member of the Palestinian National Council (Palestine in exile) which met here last March.

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More firemen help in rescues but strike support is solid

By Martin Huckerby

More firemen left their picket lines yesterday to help Servicemen in incidents where lives were at risk. But the strikers made clear that they had no intention of ending their strike.

In other parts of the country, the police, fought a fire in a tower block in Birmingham, where 400 people were evacuated, tackled a fire that destroyed a handbag factory in Manchester, and put out one that damaged many Christmas toys at Hamleys in Wigmore Street, London.

Three soldiers were slightly hurt while fighting an outbreak at a block of flats in Liverpool.

Although in many areas the number of emergency calls was below average, the Servicemen were again often hampered by hoaxes.

In Strathclyde region a school and an emergency operation after being trapped when his fire engine overturned while answering a hoax call. Colonel John Drummond, in charge of 600 troops in the region, said that the fire was caused by the soldiers' strength and morale.

Many false alarms also occurred in London and on Merseyside and there have been several suspected cases of arson.

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Support for the strike remained almost complete yesterday. Small groups of men returned to work in Northamptonshire, Essex, North Wales, but others who had stayed on duty at Todmorden, Halifax, and Colchester joined their colleagues on strike.

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Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, in a letter in The Times today, says that the danger to human life is intolerable and calls on the firemen to reconsider the consequences of their action. He urges them to adopt selective action instead of the all-out strike and suggests an official inquiry into the pay structures of firemen and similar groups.

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HOME NEWS

Mr Rees stands firm against breaching guidelines for firemen

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr Rees, Home Secretary, with the Prime Minister seated behind him, made clear in the Commons yesterday that the Government was not prepared to budge from the hard line on pay policy it has taken over the 30 per cent claim by the firemen.

He was backed from the Liberal benches by Mr Emlyn Hooson, QC, who said that if the Government negotiated an agreement that destroyed their battle against inflation the arrangement with the Liberals at an end. If the Government gave way to the firemen, he added, it was doomed.

The emergency debate, granted on Monday by the Speaker, opened with an appeal from Mr James Sillars, former fireman and Scottish Labour MP for Ayrshire, South. No one listening could fail to realize the strength of the demand by the Fire Brigades Union for consideration as a special case. But Mr Sillars, who pressed his case for "meaningful negotiations" to a division, made clear that firemen are tired of sympathy and that more is needed to get them back to work.

If, as it seemed, Mr Sillars was speaking in knowledge of the firemen's attitude to a settlement, there would appear to be room for negotiation. Calling for flexibility, he urged Mr Rees to consider that firemen do not get paid for Saturday and Sunday working, which are considered to be normal working days. There was also the possibility, he suggested, of a working party similar to the one set up to avoid a police strike.

He warned the Government that if it continued with its present attitude that the firemen could receive only 10 per cent it would find itself in the

situation that faced Mr Heath in 1974.

Mr Rees agreed that negotiations were the way to settle the dispute, but pointed out that the firemen were talking of 31 per cent, not something just over the 10 per cent. The Home Secretary said there were three sides to the offer on pay: an immediate 10 per cent, negotiation over working hours and discussion on a formula by which pay could be determined in future.

Mr Rees emphasized, despite pleas from many Labour MPs, that the 10 per cent was important and the Government could not move outside its guidelines.

From the Tory front bench, Mr Whitelaw pledged support for the Government in taking any measures necessary for the protection of the public. The Opposition would not give any encouragement to firemen who believed that they could gain a remedy for their grievances, however strongly felt, through strike action.

But Mr Whitelaw urged the importance of working out new arrangements for determining pay and conditions for people in the public service, such as police, firemen and the Armed Services, who are responsible for the safety of citizens.

Mr Whitelaw could not resist a comparison with the 1974 situation, which, he said, contrasted strongly with the attitude of the Tory Opposition today. Then, Mr Callaghan and other members of the Labour Party, now senior ministers, had done their best to undermine Mr Heath's efforts in his battle against inflation. The Labour Government had reaped a whirlwind of its own irresponsibility at that time.

The debate ended with the Commons backing, by 211 votes to 58, the Government's determination not to breach the pay guidelines.

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Sanction is sought for peace formula

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Local authority employers saw Mr Rees, Home Secretary, yesterday to seek government sanction for a peace formula that might give firemen more money from next April.

Negotiations with the Fire Brigades Union are aimed at a long-term solution to the dispute that will give the men a guaranteed position in the wages league, immune from erosion by inflation.

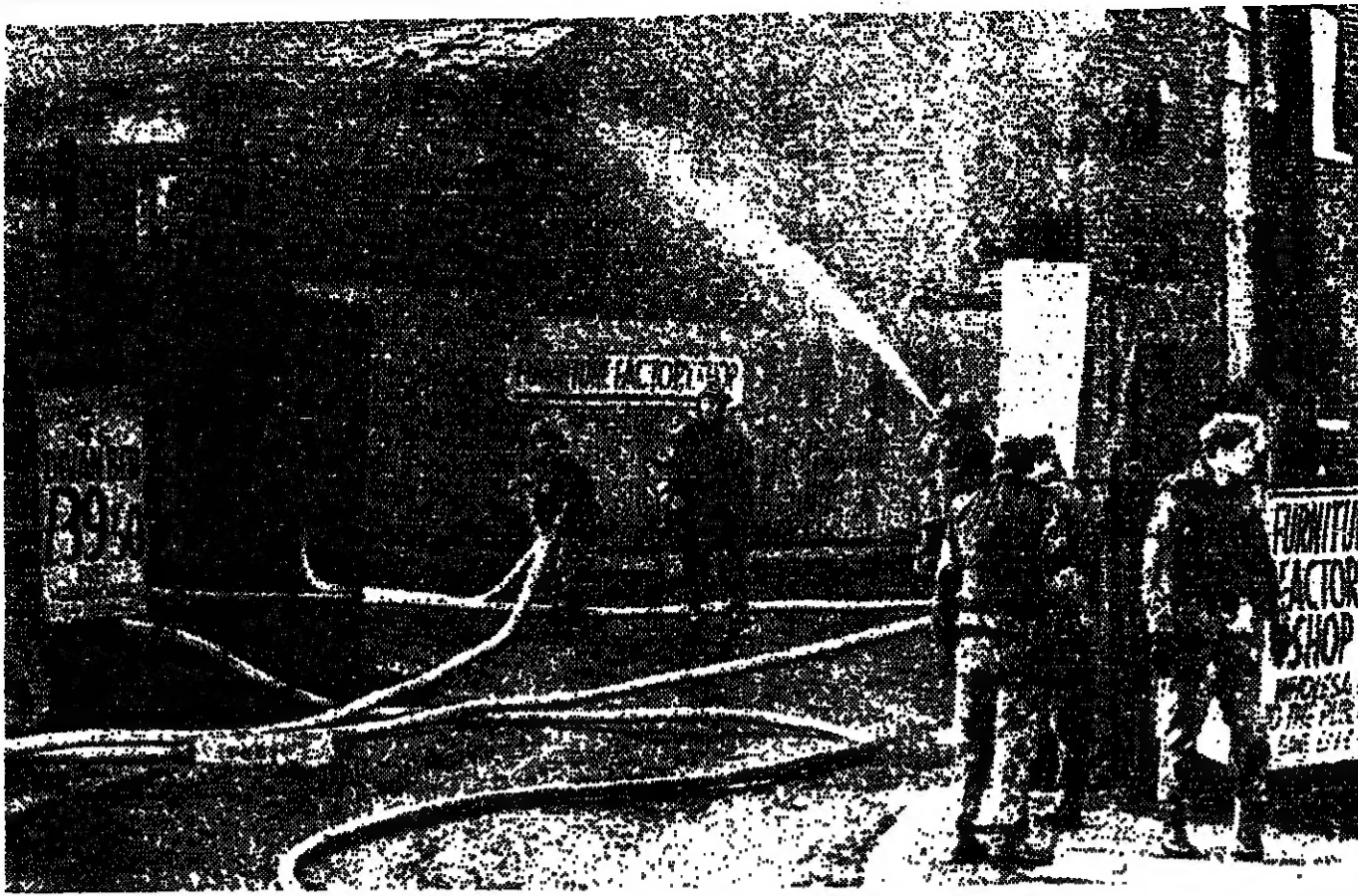
Such a formula may be put to senior firemen's leaders and local authority employers at a meeting of the fire brigades' national joint council today. Ministers hope the outcome of the talks will prompt the union executive to recall its policy-making delegates conference.

It was that body that last week voted by two to one to mount the first official strike in the union's history. It alone has the power to call off the stoppage.

The employers sought from Mr Rees an assurance that their proposed peace formula, based on a shorter working week and new pay structure, would be weak from next autumn and a underwritten by the Government in the new rate-support grant, which comes into operation in April.

They gave strong hints that the formula might mean higher pay for the firemen from April 1978, as part of the phasing-in of a new wage structure, particularly if the police are granted a deal on similar lines after the Arvies inquiry reports on their pay.

Failure to reach agreement on a long-term solution rather than a straight breach of the 10 per cent limit might mean that the dispute will drag on as long as the six-week unofficial stoppage of Glasgow firemen in 1973.



Army fire-fighters tackling their first serious fire in Belfast yesterday, after two men had planted incendiary devices at a factory in Springfield Road. There were no casualties.

Gale-damaged North-west towns may get government aid, MPs told

By Craig Seton

The Government yesterday acknowledged the severity of damage caused by gales along the north-west coast from Morecambe to Lytham St Anne's since Friday, when the Prime Minister said in the House of Commons that special aid may have to be given to repair the damage.

Strong winds at near gale force were still making it difficult for local authorities to assess the extent of damage yesterday. But at Blackpool, three breaches of the sea wall, flooding and other damage may cost the district council nearly £1m.

An official said the combination of gale force winds blowing unusually high tides on shore was the worst the district has known since the 1930s.

The Prime Minister said yesterday that Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, had been asked to investigate what needed to be done in the North-west to see what government facilities were needed.

The mayors of Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre have asked for urgent government aid. The Department of the Environment said yesterday that Blackpool had been told to do necessary emergency repairs and then apply for loan sanctions. The department can grant local authorities between 24 and 79 per cent of the cost of such work.

At Blackpool damage to the sea wall and piers is extensive and at least 250 acres have been flooded. There had been three big breaches of the sea wall most of them caused on Friday, when winds reached 90 mph.

Blackpool council said the breaches were below filled as quickly as possible, weather allowing, to prevent further damage to the sea wall and erosion of the defences. The worst breaches, one of them about 40 yards long, occurred in sections of the wall built in the 1830s.

Where breaches were "over-topping" of sea defences had occurred, large parts of the concrete parade and railings had been ripped up. Repairs, which might take several months to complete, will cost up to £1m.

Fylde District Council said that with Blackpool and Wyre, it asked for government assistance "because we think it is a disaster area".

Damage had been less severe in Lytham St Anne's than in Blackpool, but there had been several breaches in the sea wall and "over-topping" of farmland inland, at least 39 houses, and on an industrial estate. Electricity had been temporarily disrupted.

At Morecambe, where part of the West End pier was swept away during the worst of last Friday's storm, the situation is still being assessed, but Lancaster City Council believes that damage costing at least £100,000 has been caused.

Storms swept coastal areas of Belgium and Holland on Monday night, breaching dykes and seawalls and flooding low-lying roads and fields.

Parliamentary report, page 16

Protection appeal to minister

By David Nicholson-Lord

Community relations officers are asking the Home Secretary, Mr Rees, to provide a "safe working environment" against what they describe as a growing number of attacks on them and threats to staff.

The union that represents the officers, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, has written to Mr Rees calling for more protection for staff and stronger action by the police in investigating offences.

The letter comes after two recent incidents involving community relations officers and staff at Derby and Oxford. At Derby, on October 26, a woman, Mrs. Fletcher-Davies, aged 25, was confronted in her office by about thirty people, including several men wearing swastika armbands and Union Jack waistcoats.

The proposals are published almost exactly two years after the Government's rejection of most of the recommendations in a report by Mr George Dobry, QC, on development control. The Government has been guided by more than 150 replies to a circular sent in July last year to many of the individuals and organizations that gave evidence to Mr Dobry.

Although less radical than the Dobry report, which advocated the extension of planning controls to cover demolition, the order is sure to be opposed.

Conservationists will almost certainly protest at the proposed extension of listed building consent requirements. But Department of Environment officials made clear yesterday that councils would still be able to withdraw the right to alter or extend individual buildings, those within a stated area.

Among the suggested amendments listed in the circular but dropped from the order are that alterations to shop fronts should be excluded from planning permission requirements; the redefinition of highways to exclude footpaths; and the principle that house extensions should be calculated on the present, rather than the original, size of the building.

Mr Fletcher-Davies said she was really abused and she then left. Afterwards, she alleged, the group emptied a desk and scattered papers on the floor. She wrote to the Chief Constable of Derbyshire and was told that the matter was being investigated, but so far she had not been asked by the police for a formal statement.

In the second case a community relations officer at Oxford, Mr Choudhury Anwar, said he was slapped in the face by a woman last Wednesday. The police had advised him to take out a private summons after saying that the incident was not serious enough for them to investigate.

Mr Anwar said that he had done so and the local community relations council had received financial help with the action.

ASTMS wants community relations offices to be divided into two areas, similar to the layout in banks.

Shore move to ease restraints on planning

By John Young
Planning Reporter

Thousands of householders and businessmen will be given relief from bureaucratic restraints by proposed changes in planning regulations laid before Parliament by Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Order is unlikely to pass without objections, and may well be the subject of a short debate before Christmas. But the Government expects the measure, intended to reduce the 450,000 planning applications in England and Wales each year by between 10 and 20 per cent, to come into operation on January 1. Among the main amendments are:

House extensions: Limits of permitted enlargement, without planning permission, will be raised from 50 to 70 cubic metres, or from 10 to 15 per cent of the size of the house before any previous extensions, whichever is the larger, subject to a maximum of 115 cubic metres.

Garages: A building detached from a house by more than five metres will not count as an enlargement but will be regarded in the same way as, for instance, a garden shed.

Conversions: The conversion of a single house into two dwellings (but not more than two) will be exempt from planning permission. Industrial buildings: Extensions of limited size will be raised from 10 to 20 per cent, to a maximum of 750 square metres.

Listed buildings: Local authorities will be empowered to grant listed building consent for alterations or extensions to grade 2 unstarred buildings, but not grade 1 or grade 2 starred, without reference to the Secretary of State.

The order proposes a more restrictive attitude of "no subsoil" to developments, with a requirement that applications for planning permission must be advertised.

Such developments include public conveniences, refuse disposal plants, crematoria, slaughterhouses, casinos, fun-fairs, bingo halls, amusement arcades, theatres, dance halls, skating rinks, squash courts, swimming baths, restaurants, zoos, motor racing circuits and take-away hot food restaurants, and any buildings higher than 20 metres.

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Maps and pins hark back to pre-computer age

Wartime atmosphere in control centre

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

For followers of Mr Kenneth More in his war-winning film roles, the scene in the dark, draughty old depot beneath Holborn, London, will be familiar.

The operations room in a hut manned 24 hours a day, from which troops are mobilized to fight London's fires during the emergency, is equipped with maps, coloured pins, and batteries of telephones. Smart, keen-eyed fire officers move symbols on vertical boards, as if the clocks on the wall had stopped before the age of computers.

Visitors are not allowed up to the end of the room where the action is, perhaps because time wasted talking might cost lives.

But instead of Angels One Five this new page one has "Green Goddesses", fire appliances with codes such as "Five Bravo". Five is the number of one of the 20 depots in the Greater London area where 116 appliances are stationed. Bravo, one of them, was sent to Monitor Road, Bow, where a car was reported on fire.

That was at 12.31 pm. After the call for help had been received by one of the three London fire control centres at Wembley, Stratford and Croy-

don a police car was sent to check the car had not been stolen. The yard told the operations centre at the tram depot by land-line, and the address of the incident was taken down by fire control staff, most of them members of the GLC Staff Association. It was passed to the group of British Army staff from the Household Cavalry under a major, in their part of the operations room. A Green Goddess scrambled.

Green Goddesses, lacking radio and wearing blue lights, are escorted by either a police car or a fire brigade staff car.

The filtering of calls by the police is intended to save appliances being called to fires other than those demanding their attention. They do not undertake lift rescues or road accidents, for example.

The filtering system accounts for the difference between the 255 calls received in London and the 36 attended by the Army in the first 24 hours of the emergency. Fire chiefs say that in the Greater London area there would normally be between 250 and 300 calls in a 24-hour period.

The system also means, however, that a Green Goddess arrives on the scene on average about 20 minutes after

the 999 call instead of the five minutes which a red fire engine normally takes.

Fire staff officers said regular training gave troops the extra knowledge they needed when tackling a potentially disastrous fire yesterday on the eighth floor of a tower block in Wyke Street, Clapham Junction, from which people were moved out by the police.

Only the day before troops had been taught how to use drying mains as the fire brigade enabled them to tackle the fire successfully.

Telephone, in the Home Office central control room, have been ringing with offers of help and requests for advice. Up-to-the-minute information is received from fire authorities about serious incidents. One such message described how three pumps were sent to a fire at a farm in the Nuneham area. Some pigs died and a quantity of hay was destroyed. The message said the fire was performed well, but had experienced difficulties in relaying water.

The charts show that nearly 800 Green Goddesses are deployed. Authorities requiring more have a plus sign against them but could not be reinforced yesterday. Resources are thinly stretched.

Britain's 'pursuit of narrow self-interests'

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The management of The Sun warned printing workers last night that they would be deemed to have dismissed themselves unless they agreed by Sunday to operate additional plant. The ultimatum comes after a period of disruption in the paper from 21 to 22, which would allow it to add more pages.

The machine room workers belong to the National Graphical Association and the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel. They are seeking productivity payments and

more holidays for putting on the fold, instead of the employment of 14 extra men. The management says the demands far exceed the savings from not employing extra men. Questions for minister: A dispute that has halted production on The Scotsman and Evening News in Edinburgh since Saturday night, breaching dykes and seawalls and flooding low-lying roads and fields.

Parliamentary report, page 16

Newspaper printing staff are given ultimatum

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Parliamentary report, page 16

Take some friends to a party

Local community role in youth employment plan

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr Geoffrey Holland, director of the special programmes division of the Manpower Services Commission, sought to reassure local authorities and youth organisations yesterday that whether local community bodies will be involved in the development of the Government's new opportunities programme for the young unemployed.

The programme would require participation by a wide range of institutions, groups and interests at community, local authority, regional and central government levels. Mr Holland told a one-day conference in London on the implementation of the Holland report, organized by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

Local authorities and youth organizations have expressed anger over reports of a Manpower Services Commission plan for the programme to be run by 28 large area boards, staffed by civil servants.

Many ministers, however, including the Secretary of State for Education and Science, feel strongly that the schemes should be run by community bodies, including local authority representatives, in each locality.

Mr Holland said yesterday that the Government was encouraging the formation of local and consultative planning groups, either at local authority level or even within local authorities. Teams of community staff would help local education authorities to develop courses.

Area boards would include representatives of at least two local education authorities and one director of education. At national level there would be a management board to which authorities should be linked.

"An informal network of involvement and participation by a large number of people and at a large number of levels", Mr Holland said.

The needs of unemployed young people in a particular area must be matched with job opportunities. It must not be forgotten, Mr Holland said, that 95 per cent of the population were born, educated, lived, worked and died within the same labour market.

Food and drugs Act to be revised

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

The Government is to revise the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 with the main legislation dealing with the composition, labelling, hygiene and safety of food. Mr Strang, Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, announced in a written reply in the Commons yesterday that the object would be to bring the Act up to date with advances in food technology and changes in food distribution.

The new legislation will also have to take account of EEC directives, which have to be enforced in Britain.

Pensioners see minister

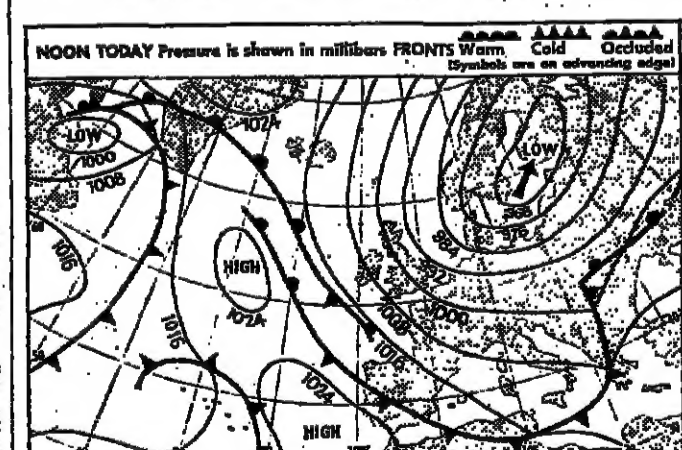
More than two thousand pensioners lobbied MPs at Westminster yesterday as part of their campaign for higher pensions. Later they met Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security.

Mr Fred Baker, the pensioners' leader, said: "Mr Orme was impressed and said he would take note of our demands for a review. We are hopeful."

Ships collide

The British Rail ferry Southsea and the miniswimmer Norton were involved in a collision at Portsmouth Harbour yesterday.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 7.20 am
Moon rises: 12.2 pm
Sun sets: 4.10 pm
Moon sets: 10.1 pm

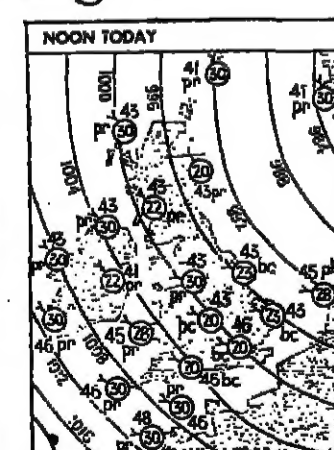
First quarter: Tomorrow
Lighting up: 4.40 pm to 6.32 am
High water: London Bridge, 4.57 am, 7.1m (23.2ft); 5.27 pm, 7.2m (23.5ft)
Low water: 10.37 am, 11.8m (38.5ft); 4.40 pm, 11.3 pm, 11.8m (38.5ft)
Dover, 2.2 am, 6.5m (21.6ft); 2.34 pm, 6.3m (20.7ft)
Bull, 9.34 am, 7.1m (23.3ft); 9.43 pm, 7.0m (23.1ft)
Liverpool, 2.22 am, 5.9m (22.2ft); 2.46 pm, 9.9m (28.6ft)

A cold N air mass will persist over the British Isles.
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, central S England, East Anglia, E Midlands: Sunny at first, perhaps isolated showers in afternoon; wind NW moderate or fresh; temp 7 or 9°C.
SW England, Channel Islands: Sunny intervals, occasional squally showers; wind NW fresh or strong; max temp 7 or 9°C.
W Midlands, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man: Sunny intervals.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NW, strong, occasionally gale at first; sea very rough, becoming rough.
St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, strong, occasionally gale; sea very rough.

30-day Forecast
The Meteorological Office yesterday issued the following 30-day forecast: Mild, disturbed W weather types are expected to predominate but with one or two cold spells.
WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY:				cloud : 4. rain :			
T. rain : 5. sun.							
Algeria	19.65	Colombo	6.46	L. Pakistan	20.75	New York	20.50
Algeria	19.65	Copenhagen	7.42	London	17.65	Rome	10.50
Amsterdam	17.65	Dublin	7.42	Liverpool	17.65	Stockholm	10.50
Antwerp	17.65	Edinburgh	7.42	Manchester	17.65	Switzerland	10.50
Bombay	17.65	Geneva	7.42	Paris	17.65	Vienna	10.50
Breast	17.65	Hamburg	7.42	Prague	17.65	Zurich	10.50
Bristol	17.65	London	7.42	Warsaw	17.65		
Buffalo	17.65	Manchester	7.42				
Buenos Aires	17.65	Paris	7.42				
Calcutta	17.65	Prague	7.42				
Cardiff	17.65	Stockholm	7.42				
		Switzerland	7.42				
		Vienna	7.42				
		Zurich	7.42				



Further cold N outbreaks. Mean temperatures will probably be above average in all areas.
Total rainfall: expected to range from below average in East Anglia and SE England to above average in N and W Scotland, N Ireland, NW England and N Wales. Gales may continue to be more frequent than usual in the N and W, but occasional of frost, fog and falling snow are likely to be below average in all districts.

Yesterday
London: Temp: Max, 6 am to 6 pm, 9°C (48°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 51 per cent. Rain, 6.4m to 6.5 pm, a trace. Sun, 2.4m to 6 pm, 6.3m. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 995.4 millibars, rising, 1,000 millibars = 29.53m.

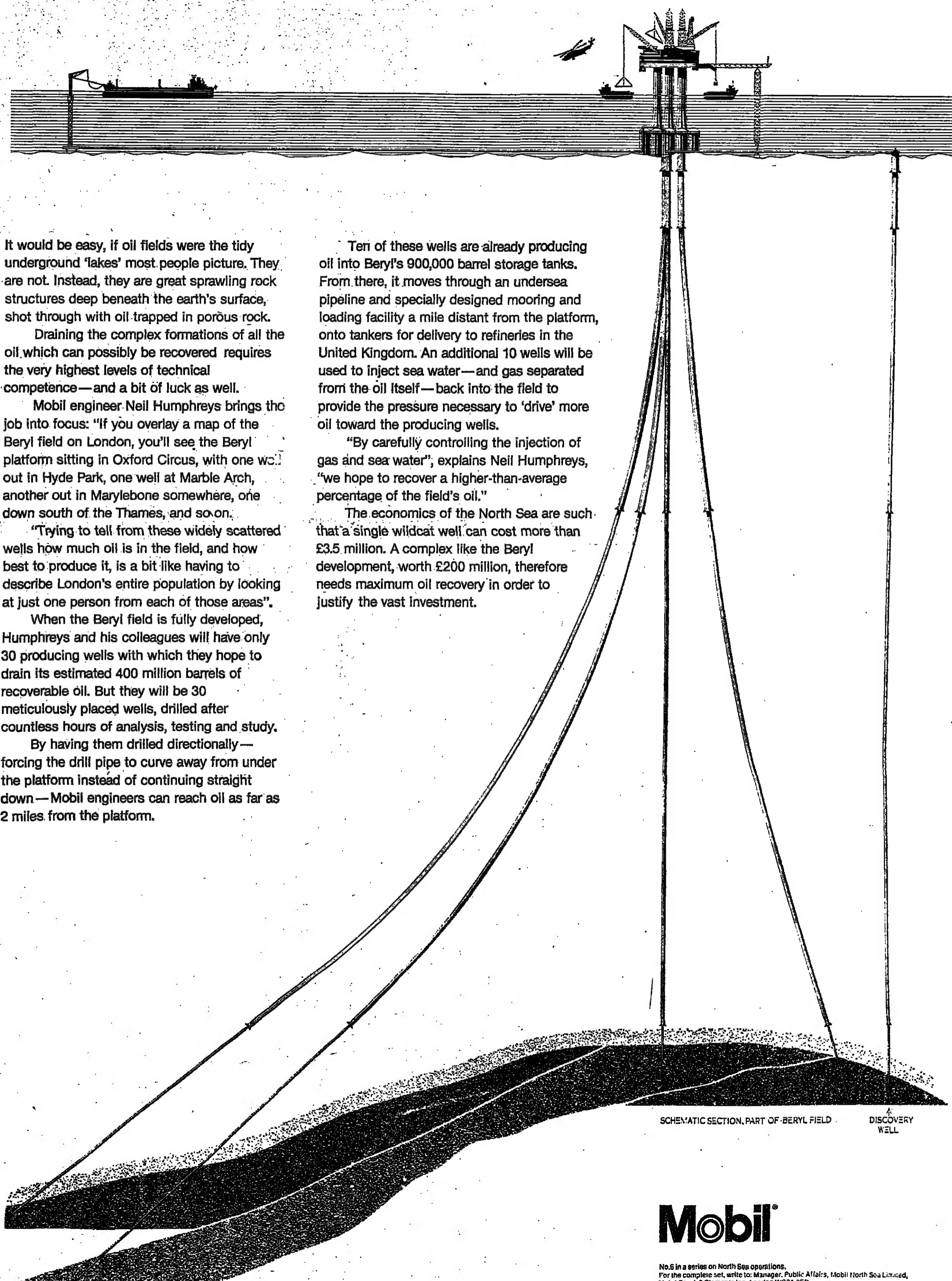
Overseas selling prices
Australia, 50c (50c)
Canada, 50c (50c)
France, 50c (50c)
Germany, 50c (50c)
Italy, 50c (50c)
Japan, 50c (50c)
Netherlands, 50c (50c)
Portugal, 50c (50c)
Spain, 50c (50c)
Sweden, 50c (50c)
Switzerland, 50c (50c)
USA/Canada, 50c (50c)
Yugoslavia, 50c (50c)

Published daily except Sundays, public holidays and Bank Holidays. The Times is published daily except on Sundays, public holidays and Bank Holidays. The Times is published daily except on Sundays, public holidays and Bank Holidays.

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"Imagine this drawing 1½ miles wide and two miles deep."



It would be easy, if oil fields were the tidy underground 'lakes' most people picture. They are not. Instead, they are great sprawling rock structures deep beneath the earth's surface, shot through with oil-trapped in porous rock.

Draining the complex formations of all the oil, which can possibly be recovered requires the very highest levels of technical competence—and a bit of luck as well.

Mobil engineer Neil Humphreys brings the job into focus: "If you overlay a map of the Beryl field on London, you'll see the Beryl platform sitting in Oxford Circus, with one well out in Hyde Park, one well at Marble Arch, another out in Marylebone somewhere, one down south of the Thames, and so on.

"Trying to tell from these widely scattered wells how much oil is in the field, and how best to produce it, is a bit like having to describe London's entire population by looking at just one person from each of those areas".

When the Beryl field is fully developed, Humphreys and his colleagues will have only 30 producing wells with which they hope to drain its estimated 400 million barrels of recoverable oil. But they will be 30 meticulously placed wells, drilled after countless hours of analysis, testing and study.

By having them drilled directionally—forcing the drill pipe to curve away from under the platform instead of continuing straight down—Mobil engineers can reach oil as far as 2 miles from the platform.

Ten of these wells are already producing oil into Beryl's 900,000 barrel storage tanks. From there, it moves through an undersea pipeline and specially designed mooring and loading facility a mile distant from the platform, onto tankers for delivery to refineries in the United Kingdom. An additional 10 wells will be used to inject sea water—and gas separated from the oil itself—back into the field to provide the pressure necessary to 'drive' more oil toward the producing wells.

"By carefully controlling the injection of gas and sea water", explains Neil Humphreys, "we hope to recover a higher-than-average percentage of the field's oil."

The economics of the North Sea are such that a single wildcat well can cost more than £3.5 million. A complex like the Beryl development, worth £200 million, therefore needs maximum oil recovery in order to justify the vast investment.

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HOME NEWS

Routine security at Scots hospital not enforced, report says

From Our Own Correspondent
Glasgow

Not enough attention was paid to enforcing routine security precautions at the state hospital at Carstairs, Strathclyde, the report of the public inquiry into the escape of two patients in November last year states. During the escape a male nurse, a police officer and another patient were murdered.

The report, by Sheriff Principal Robert Reid, QC, makes more than forty recommendations on management and security at the hospital.

THE SAYS THAT NURSE Neil McLellan, who was killed, acted with great courage. Had he counter-attacked with the weapons he took from Thomas McCulloch, one of the patients, or attempted to escape, the results might have been very different. Instead he had attempted to secure Robert Mone and Ian Simpson, two other patients, and to disarm Mr McCulloch.

The report found that Mr McCulloch must have spent up to two hours in the woodwork department at the hospital making knives and swords. It recommends that there should be more control over work done in the department and

over the issue of materials and the disposal of metal waste. Other recommendations in the report include the erection of a second fence around the west wing of the hospital, the appointment of someone with a thorough and up-to-date knowledge of prison security to the management committee, together with two nurses not members of staff.

A security officer should be employed to assist the principal nursing officer, and an annual inspection should be carried out by an independent expert, the report says.

The report pays tribute to the hospital staff. They did work that few would consider undertaking, and they did it with steady dedication, it says. It is "irresponsible" to say that the staff were "incompetent". Two groups, the Citizens' Committee for Human Rights and a "breakaway" body, the Committee for Social Justice and Moral Reform, both of which gave evidence at the inquiry, behaved irresponsibly, the report says (the Press Association reports).

Mr Thomas Oswald, principal nursing officer, had failed to enforce routine security precautions, the report says. He had a lack of drive and very limited powers of discipline over his staff.

Royal commoner makes his mark in constitutional history

By Philip Howard

The son born yesterday to Princess Anne becomes fifth in line to the Throne, overtaking Princess Margaret and her children, Lord Lindsey and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, in the succession.

The Queen's first grandchild, born in the year of her silver jubilee, has already made a curious footnote in constitutional history by being the first grandchild of a ruling sovereign for five centuries to be born a commoner. The last time that happened was early in the sixteenth century, when Edward IV, married plain Thomas Kyme in 1504 and, according to some authorities, created a duchess or given a title in her own right. Those were the only ways that the baby could be born into the peerage, in spite of being fifth in the succession. Captain Philip and Princess Anne preferred not to take a title.

Buckingham Palace has announced that Captain Philip will not be given a title and Princess Anne will not be created a duchess or given a title in her own right. Those were the only ways that the baby could be born into the peerage, in spite of being fifth in the succession. Captain Philip and Princess Anne preferred not to take a title.

Titles are but nicknames, and every nickname is a title. Nevertheless, the decision creates nice constitutional precedents and paradoxes. It raises the probability that more hereditary titles will be created, which would increasingly isolate the hereditary monarchy as a unique institution. We shall have to wait and see what happens to any children that Prince Andrew and Prince Edward have.

Princess Anne's child is bound in the course of time to have various titles on behalf of the Queen, notably as a Counsellor of State. Those counsellors have been appointed from the earliest times during the absence of the Sovereign abroad "to prevent delay or difficulty in the dispatch of public business".

On reaching the age of 18 the child will become eligible to be a counsellor of state, ahead of Princess Margaret, and will certainly have to serve a turn, for any children of Prince Andrew and Prince Edward will be too young at least for a time to act as counsellors.

That will create the agreeable and fashionable precedent

that any statutes or other official documents that have to be signed in the Queen's absence will bear a commoner's signature for the first time in our constitutional history, excluding Oliver Cromwell from the calculation.

The reason that the child inherits no title through Princess Anne derives from the changes in 1917 to the name and style of the House of Windsor. Before those changes the granddaughters of Edward VII, for example, took the title Her Highness Princess (Alexandra and Mary) from their mother, Princess Louise. Normally a title is given to the father, The Earl of Snowdon was given his very much as the eleventh hour of the pregnancy.

The child is, of course, a member of the select group, the Royal Family. In Great Britain it is possible to be a member of the Royal Family without having any kind of title. For example, Captain Alexander Ramsay of Mar is in the list, and, while it is more, senior to Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, who is a British Royal Highness.

The baby will be senior to Princess Margaret and all the rest except the Queen's own children. Other members of the Royal Family are Sir Henry Abel-Smith, the Hon Gerald Lascelles, and the Dukes of Fife and Beaufort.

The baby expected by the Duchess of Gloucester will be either Lord or Lady (Christian name) Windsor, depending on its sex.

The closest precedent to Princess Anne's case is that of Princess Alexandra, the Queen's cousin. She accepted no courtesy title for herself or her husband, Mr Angus Ogilvy, and accordingly their children are plain Master James and Miss Marina Ogilvy.

Mr Rees, the Home Secretary, was not obliged to be present at the birth as he would have been 30 years ago. The remarkable custom necessitating the attendance of the Home Secretary at royal births had no constitutional basis, but it was strictly adhered to.

It did not, as is commonly believed, even date from the "warming-up incident" of

1688, when the Whigs alleged that the baby born to James II's Queen, Mary of Modena, had died shortly after birth and that a substitute had been smuggled into St James's Palace in a warming-up can, to become eventually the Old Pretender or, to the Jacobites, King James III. There is, in fact, no clue to the origin of the custom, which was abandoned on the occasion of the birth of the present Prince of Wales on November 14, 1948.

Mr Patrick Montague-Smith, the editor of Debut's Peerage, said yesterday that whatever Princess Anne had chosen to do about a title would have created a precedent "in the past assuming that the princess married either a prince or a member of the peerage. In either case their children had a title anyway."

"Never before has the situation arisen in which the monarch's grandchild is a commoner, but, equally, never before has a royal princess been created a peeress," Mr Montague-Smith said. He was mildly surprised that neither parent accepted a title, but "I suppose it is the trend now."

Soldier-bashing expedition by gang, counsel says

Fourteen young men looked for anyone who had short hair when they went on soldier-bashing expeditions, but two of their victims were students, it was stated at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. The prosecution alleged that the defendants said they wanted revenge for trouble they said soldiers had been causing in their area.

Judge Argyle, QC, told the defendants, who had pleaded guilty to various offences: "If a five breaks out at your home tonight and your grandparents or brothers are in danger, are you going to call the Army, who you know will have a go at you, or will you have the guts and have a go yourselves?"

In the dock were: David Brewer, aged 18, student, of The Baddleys, Farnham, Surrey; Gordon Powell, aged 20, driver, of

Sandy Hill Estate, Farnham; Alan Williams, aged 19, labourer, of Sandy Hill Estate; Keith White, aged 19, student, of Farnham; Mark Atkins, aged 18, junior draughtsman, of The Baldreys; David Boniface, aged 18, roofing contractor, of The Baldreys; John Wood, aged 17, of Arthur Road, Farnham; Barry Cole, aged 19, machine operator, of Sandy Hill Estate; Stephen Clark, aged 23, milkman, of West Ring, Tongham, Suffolk; White, aged 16, quarry worker, of Talbot Road, Farnham, and four school boys.

The defendants visited various public houses and finished up at Bordon, near the Army camp. They carried pickaxe or shovel handles and attacked three Territorial Army soldiers.

The next weekend their victim was a student, Stephen Trebble, aged 19, at Ash Vale. He was attacked and robbed of £3.60 and his keys.

The trial continues today.

Damages claim by man who alleges beating by police

From Our Correspondent
Manchester

A man was beaten up in a police station by five or six officers and later struck with a truncheon while being held down in a cell, it was alleged at the High Court in Manchester yesterday.

Mr Terence Loftus, aged 34, was found to have kidney damage and had psychiatric treatment for depression because of his experiences at the police station, Mr Patrick Russell, QC, his counsel, said. He was taken to a police station after being stopped while driving a van. It was suggested that he had stolen scrap metal or had handled it dishonestly.

Mr Russell continued: "The metal belonged to his employers, a firm of demolition contractors, and he was lawfully driving the vehicle. The police were not satisfied, and he was escorted to a police station, the

scene of a disgraceful sequence of events."

Mr Loftus is claiming damages for unlawful arrest, false imprisonment, assault, and malicious prosecution. The Chief Constable of Manchester denies all the allegations.

Mr Russell said that inquiries were made at Westwood police station which Mr Loftus felt cleared him of theft or handling. He became impatient and decided to leave. "He says he was struck by a police officer as he tried to do so."

A number of officers set about him, beating him badly with their fists and in a cell a truncheon was used, causing serious injuries to his kidneys.

Mr Russell said that later magistrates dismissed charges against Mr Loftus of assaulting an officer, and damaging a shirt and watch.

The hearing before Mr Justice Cawley, continues today.

Grunwick woman workers to hold hunger strike

By Annabel Ferriman

Woman strikers at the Grunwick film processing plant, north-west London, are to start a hunger strike tomorrow, it was announced at the Communist Party's national congress in London yesterday.

Mr Tom Durkin, Brent branch, London, said the strike might fail unless the whole trade union movement could be mobilized behind it, so a hunger strike was to be held outside the headquarters of the TUC to persuade it to act.

Demonstrations would be mounted outside the TUC Gen-

eral Council meeting next Wednesday.

The strike had demonstrated to black workers the support of white trade unionists. A defeat would be disastrous for race relations. "We have got to go into action to win this battle for democracy, for black people and for union rights."

The 400 delegates unanimously passed a motion congratulating the strikers on their "courageous and magnificent" 15-month struggle. It called on the TUC General Council and the unions concerned to cut off all services, including post, power and water, to the Grunwick factory.

"The Grunwick strike has shown that existing legislation

does not guarantee the right to join a union, to strike and picket," it said.

Delegates voted overwhelmingly for the new draft of the party programme, *The British Road to Socialism*. Only 29 votes were cast against the document, which advocates a "broad democratic alliance" against capitalism.

It declares that the transition to socialism will be brought about through a series of left-Labour governments, and socialist governments would be subject to the ballot box. All parties would be tolerated "even those hostile to socialism."

Although the British Com-

munist Party dislikes the term

Euro-communism, its philosophy clearly has much in common with the French and Italian parties, which have been working with other parties on the left for several years.

Of local branches 2,600 amendments to the new draft, the drafting committee accepted 170 in principle and 77 conditionally. 1,300 were remitted to the executive.

The delegates, representing 245 workplaces and 583 local branches, were on average three years older than the last congress two years ago and included fewer women, 17.2 per cent compared with 22 per cent.

Only half education college teachers are graduates

By Our Education Correspondent

Only just over half the teachers of future teachers in colleges of education in 1975 were graduates, according to government figures published today. In other institutions of further and higher education, excluding universities, fewer than two fifths of the teaching staff were graduates.

On March 31, 1975, there were 10,810 teachers in colleges of education in England and Wales, of whom 5,166 or 57 per cent were graduates. Of the 63,194 teachers in other institutions of further education, 37 per cent were graduates. In the polytechnics two fifths of the 13,000 lecturers and professors were not graduates.

In state schools, two fifths of the 216,736 secondary school teachers were graduates but

only 8 per cent of the 201,318 primary school teachers were. The Government has said it hopes there will be an all-graduate entry into the teaching profession by 1979 or 1980.

In direct-grant grammar schools 4,474 of the 6,996 teachers, or nearly two in every three, were graduates. That is a higher proportion even than in the independent schools recognized by the Government as efficient, where 12,672 of the 22,251 teachers were graduates.

In all educational establishments men were more likely to have degrees than women. Women outnumbered men by three to one in state primary schools, but in secondary schools there were four men to every three women.

Statistics of Education 1975, volume 4, teachers. (Stationary Office, £7).

Boy of 15 ordered to be detained for life

A boy of 15 who killed his playmate, aged seven, with a hammer while they were building a hole-in-the-ground camp has ordered at Stafford Crown Court yesterday to be detained for life.

Mr Maurice Drake, QC, for the prosecution, said the boy was making their camp on waste ground at Darlington, when the younger one went to get some wood.

When he returned, unharmed, counsel said, he came up behind the defendant who caught him on the back of the head with the hammer, which rendered him unconscious and killed him by bleeding to the ground.

"It seems that this young boy's small friend, bleeding and

unconscious, the accused panicked. He hit him a further blow with the hammer. For some reason he is unable to explain why he tied his hand behind his back with wire and covered the boy's body with a coat and went home."

The 15-year-old, said to be immature and educationally sub-normal, pleaded not guilty to the murder of Andrew Lees, of Herbert Park Road, Darlington, but admitted manslaughter. The plea was accepted.

Ted Ray's death

Ted Ray, the comedian, of Wincoburn, Essex, died from a heart attack, Dr Arnold Meadows, the deputy coroner, said at Darlington yesterday when he recorded a verdict of death from natural causes.

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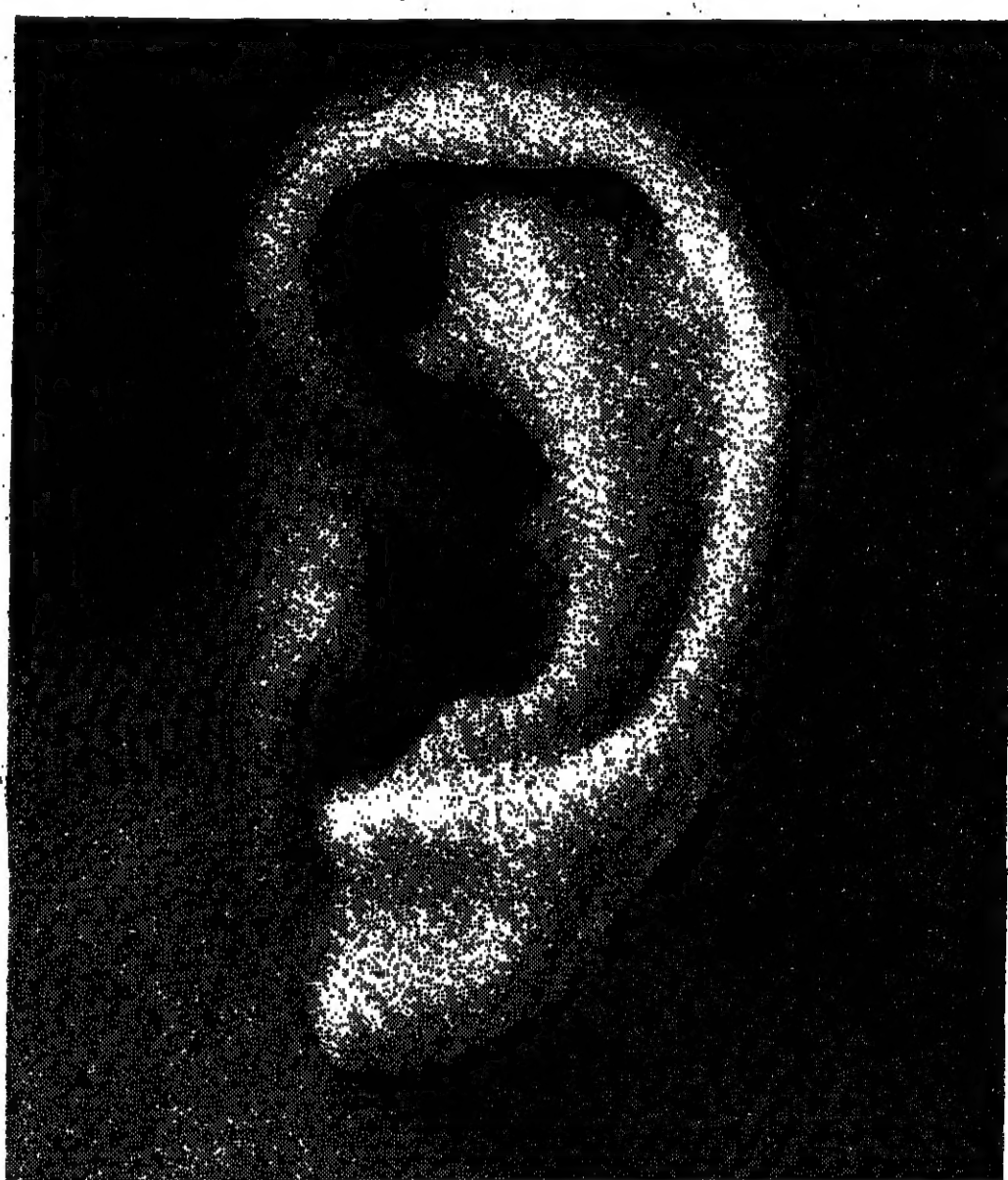
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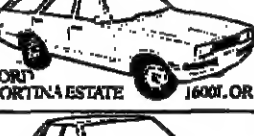

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FORD CORTINA 1600L OR SIMILAR	UNLIMITED WEEKLY £63.05	£75.00	£71.75	£115.00
	DAILY PER MILE £6.75 (7p)	£8.50 (8½p)	£8.25 (8½p)	£11.00 (11p)
FORD CORTINA ESTATE 1600L OR SIMILAR	UNLIMITED WEEKLY £72.80	£102.00	£94.50	Not shown
	DAILY PER MILE £9.75 (10p)	£13.00 (12½p)	£12.50 (13p)	£19.00 (19p)
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HOME NEWS

Short-term farm tenancies urged

From Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent
Spaulding, Warwickshire

Landowners should break down barriers against young people who want to farm by offering short-term tenancies, Mr Peter Giffard, a member of the Northfield committee on buying and occupation of farmland, said yesterday.

He said in one of the first public statements by a member of the committee set up in September by Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: "I think fixed-term tenancies have a lot of future."

He wanted a young man of, say, 25 to be given the chance of a tenancy that would be guaranteed to last five years.

That is an unusual concept, since long duration is considered a cardinal feature of useful agricultural activity. Although Mr Giffard emphasized that his statement was not a guide to the committee's views, Mr Silkin has told it to investigate "the difficulties facing young people who wish to enter farming as their career."

Mr Giffard was speaking at a conference held on the site of the Royal Show at which speakers debated the squeeze exerted on the delicate fabric of agricultural holdings by shrinking areas, haphazard planning, and rapidly rising land prices.

Mr Tom Boden, vice-president of the National Farmers' Union, said it was also squeezed by a national obsession with cheap food. "We are looking for a society in which food is valued on the basis of a reasonable standard of living for all those who are involved in its production, including the landlord. We in this country have never valued food in its proper perspective."

Threats to the survival of good farmland were highlighted by Mr Roger Sayce, chief adviser in the Government's farm advisory service. In the early 1970s farmland had been lost in Britain at a rate of 73,000 acres a year, he said. Farmland was very quickly and simply converted to other uses.

Marxists in higher education, 3: Non-formal institutions and the media

Annual communist universities and courses at a 'Red Weekend'

By Ian Bradley

The allegations of Marxist infiltration made in the Gould report concern not only the universities and polytechnics, but also the less formal and institutional parts of the higher education system. In particular, Professor Julius Gould and his associates are concerned about the Communist University of London, the Open University and trends in publishing.

The educational activities of the Communist Party, and in particular the growth of the annual university it runs, are regarded with deep suspicion by those who believe there is a concerted Marxist conspiracy to take over institutions of higher education. The Gould report published as an appendix a full list of participants in last year's Communist University, an open university of the left, as it is called.

Dr John Marks, lecturer in physics at North London Polytechnic, quotes articles from *Marxism Today* outlining the Communist Party's strategy of changing the content of courses in universities and polytechnics

and organizing students and staff in colleges "as part of our struggle for a socialist revolution in Britain".

There is no doubt that the involvement of the Communist Party in higher education has increased in the past decade. When the Communist University started in 1969 it attracted 120 participants. This year 1,350 people attended the nine-day course. There are now annual communist universities in other places. A "Red Weekend" in Manchester earlier this month featured courses in sexual, political, health and social care, and science and technology.

Mr Kenneth Spours, national student organizer of the Communist Party, says the purposes of the Communist University is "to develop a British Marxist tradition and link the concepts of theory and practice".

He utterly rejects any suggestion that the communists are intolerant and underhand in their approach. He says: "We now see the importance of Marxism, but a debate within a pluralist framework. It is not the job of lecturers to tell students they must come to par-

ticular conclusions. That would be abusing their position. We are not out to produce mind-revolutionaries."

The Open University is another target of the Gould report. Two of its courses cause particular concern: schooling and society, which is a course largely taken by teachers; and patterns of inequality, which is a third-level social science course.

The accusation against the schooling and society course is that it presents education purely as a function of the capitalist system and questions whether it is in any way worth while. One of the students taking the course wrote in a letter to *The Times Educational Supplement*: "I can only label it as a packaged recipe for anarchy and chaos, unrelieved in its bias by any ray of hope either in the goodness of God or man, nor mature to the achievement of either."

Mr Geoffrey Esland, lecturer in sociology in the educational studies faculty of the Open University, says a member of the course team that produced schooling and society, admits that the theme of the course is

"to question the common idea that education is generally a beneficial activity and to suggest that it is merely reproducing those aspects of existing society which create injustice. It does certainly challenge the predominance of the liberal view of education." He points out that schooling and society is only one of more than 10 Open University courses on education.

He believes it is important to challenge the prevailing attitudes of teachers and present them with radical alternatives. The course questions the use of drugs to control hyperactive children, argues that traditional curricula may lead to sex stereotypes, and presents the view that intelligence testing perpetuates class divisions.

The critics of schooling and society maintain that it deliberately aims to politicize teachers and make them lose faith in their vocation. Mr Esland rejects that. He says: "It is hard to separate the intellectual and political purpose of the course, although the intellectual purpose is uppermost. In Marxist terms all knowledge is political."

It would be true to say that

there are aspects of our education system which are retrogressive, and if teachers collectively come to a decision about them then a change in their practice could be the outcome.

The course specifically focuses on the local educational systems created in response to the recent revolution in Portugal.

Mrs Caroline Cox, former head of the sociology department at North London Polytechnic, has complained both in the Open University's newspaper, *Sesame*, and in the Gould report that the patterns of inequality course is "intellectually dishonest and a platform for blatantly political views". Her complaint is that the course gives the impression that poverty and inequality are peculiar to capitalist societies.

Mr Graham Thompson, chairman of the course team that produced patterns of inequality, says it was deliberately decided to concentrate only on Britain and not discuss the state of communist societies.

He says: "I would not accept that there is a 'neutral'

position on inequality. The position that presents itself as neutral is itself political in that it is defending the existing social organization. There is no such thing as disinterestedness in the sense that it is used by liberal ideologists."

Like Mr Esland, Mr Thompson points out that all Open University courses are produced by teams of 20 or more academics of widely different political persuasions, so there is no possibility of one particular view being able to predominate.

Academic publishers also come under attack in the Gould report for the Marxist bias of their books. The report specifically mentions the now defunct education library of Penguin Books as providing "an incoherent mixture of a variety of left-wing materials". It goes on to say: "Routledge and Kegan Paul and Macmillan are two houses which have entered energetically into supplying the Marxist need."

Mr Peter Hopkins, editorial director of Routledge, responds to that accusation by saying: "I thought that was what capitalism was all about."

Mr Shane Shaker, social sciences editor at Macmillan, similarly says that publishers are simply responding to the market in bringing out Marxist works. Both Routledge and Macmillan say their academic lists are balanced and that they publish works because they represent good scholarship regardless of their political bias.

The attitude to the Gould report's allegations of Marxist bias differs markedly at different levels of the higher education system. In universities it is probably fair to say that it has met with a generally dismissive, even hostile, response.

In polytechnics, colleges of education and among those concerned with teaching vocational subjects there seems to be more disposition to take the allegations seriously. It is there that some agreement is found for the assertion of Professor David Martin, Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics, that "there is a constant digging away at the sense of well-being within our society, and the substitution of an irritated sense that everything is out of joint."

Concluded

Bob Monkhouse on three more plot charges

Bob Monkhouse, the television performer, faced three more conspiracy charges at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, accusing him of plots dating back to 1966 to defraud film distributing companies.

Mr Monkhouse, aged 49, of Clarendon, Ealing, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, was further remanded on bail until February 7.

The new charges allege that he conspired with others on days dating back to December 1, 1966, to defraud Columbia Warner, 20th Century Fox, the Film Distributors' Association Ltd, Ronald Harris Cinema Services, and other film distributors out of hire fees for 16mm films.

Appearing with Mr Monkhouse on similar charges the other men were also remanded on bail to the same date.

They were Anthony Scott, aged 33, a company director, of Woodhurst Road, Acton, London; Ronald Van-Sittart, aged 30, an engineer, of Alric Avenue, New Malden, Surrey; and Brian Barnett, aged 40, a film distributor, of Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire. All four also face an original charge of conspiring to cheat and defraud Columbia Warner Film Distributors.

Films quoted in the charges include *A Man for all seasons*, *Major Dundee*, *The Innocent*, *Let's Make Love*, *Baby Maker*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, *Dodge City*, and *San Quentin*.

Burglars left woman of 85 to die, prosecution says

From Our Correspondent
Reading

Two young burglars gagged, bound and blindfolded a woman aged 85 and left her to die, it was alleged at Reading Crown Court yesterday.

Mr David Jeffries, QC, for the prosecution, said they tied her legs and wrists with her dressing-gown cord and used other clothing to gag and blindfold her before stealing her pension book, three rings, savings certificates, and £150 cash.

It was four days before relatives found her body. A pathologist had said she had died of a heart attack suffered some time after the burglary, but had remained alive for at least a day after that, counsel added.

He said Mrs Morelli had been an independent woman who lived alone in her house in Durrington Road, Hackney, east London, because she wanted to look after herself. She normally took precautions before answering the door.

Leroy Gilpin, aged 25, her former next-door neighbour, now of no fixed address, and Andrew George, aged 19, of Seven Sisters Road, London, pleaded not guilty to murdering Mrs Morelli. Mr George also denied burgling her home between May 18 and 26.

In an alleged statement, Mr Gilpin admitted breaking in and said: "I am very sorry. I did not mean this to happen. She was a nice lady."

The trial continues today.



Mr Howell, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment (left), watching children at the Diamond Riding Centre for the Handicapped, Carshalton, Surrey.

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£30,000 award to widows of Windscale men

Two widows who contended that their husbands died as a result of working at the Windscale nuclear power plant were awarded a combined total of more than £30,000 by the High Court in Cardiff yesterday.

They were Mrs Gladys Troughton and Mrs Joan King, who claimed damages against British Nuclear Fuels.

Mr Jonathan Troughton, of Queens Park, Milford, Carmarthen, died in 1975 from myeloma, a rare cancer. His body was found to have more than the internationally prescribed maximum level of plutonium.

Mr Henry King, of Park View, Eglwyston, Carmarthen, died in 1973 of a brain tumour. He retired from Windscale in 1971 because of partial blindness.

The two widows announced yesterday that they had reached agreement.

A statement read on behalf of the two claimants said that British Nuclear Fuels admitted liability for Mr Troughton's death, and agreed to pay his widow £22,441.

The company denied liability for Mr King's death, but agreed to pay £8,000.

New joint chairmen for 'Scotland is British'

From Our Own Correspondent
Glasgow

Lord Wilson of Lonsdale, QC, former Sheriff Principal of Glasgow and Strathclyde, and the Very Rev. Dr Andrew Herron, clerk to the Presbytery of Glasgow and a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, are to be chairmen of the "Scotland is British" campaign.

At a press conference in Glasgow yesterday, Lord Wilson agreed that few Scots would say they were against devolution. The campaign was not quarrelling about the room for improvement in the handling of Scottish affairs by the Government. "Our quarrel, and it is a serious one, is with the proposals contained in the devolution Bill."

Sensible political judgment was that the Bill would make things worse and would set the stage for secession. "It is irrelevant in that it demonstrably can make no contribution to those problems which must concern people: inflation, unemployment, industrial relations, law and order and so on. It is ill considered in that it again demonstrably proceeds not upon considerations of principle or practical wisdom but upon those of ill judged electoral expediency."

Lord Wilson said the nationalists supported the Bill because they believed it would, if anything, add to rather than solve difficulties and would thus disappoint expectations.

He described as frightening the provision empowering the Secretary of State to lay before Parliament a draft order providing for repeal of the Act if it appeared that it should not be brought into effect having regard to answers given in the referendum and all other circumstances.

Dr Herron said he had not met anybody who saw the Bill as a step for restoring the Scottish nation, culture or economy. "Scotland needs less government, not more," he said.

Scottish attitudes on devolution, 2: Shetland

17,000 anxiously eye the oil revenues

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Jobs, the cost of living, and pay all rank higher in the priorities of most Scots than devolution.

It is an unexciting world to the average worker on Clydeside and seems largely unrelated to the root problems of his country. The central question remains that if it were not for the threat to United Kingdom party seats from the Scottish nationalists, devolution would not have the significance it now commands.

Devolution, in short, has become more important to the political machinery north of the border, in spite of the great constitutional implications of the Bills now before Parliament. A Scottish assembly, the argument goes, would be a way of running Scotland effectively allowing more direct control over the Scottish economy.

Where the economy is in poor condition that may sound attractive, provided the calibre of assembly men is high and the administrators are skilled enough to give better government. Where industry is healthy and a considerable measure of local independence has already been achieved, the appearance of a powerful assembly in Edinburgh seems a sinister challenge.

Shetland is in that position. The council promoted and piloted through Parliament the Zetland County Council Act, 1974. It was a complete measure that gave the council power to acquire land, set up a reserve fund in which oil revenue profits could be banked, and run the marine facilities at Sullom Voe, the site of wax

will be one of the world's largest oil terminals.

Land speculators were outflanked as Shetland Islands Council convinced the Government that it must have sufficient powers to guard against profiteering and haphazard development and to raise money to invest for the future.

The Shetland Islands Council is making sacrifices in the national interest. The right reward would be the disturbance payments from the oil companies, which will amount to £20m a year by the turn of the century.

It was not against devolution or Edinburgh, only anxious that the oil revenues should be shared for the benefit of 17,000 Shetlanders and not distributed among the whole of Scotland. It is feared that the Strathclyde region, short of cash and dominating the assembly, would be the envy of Shetland's oil wealth.

The Nevins Institute is studying the various constitutional moves Shetland could make, groups of MPs from both sides of the devolution argument have been invited to Lerwick, and councillors discuss the attractions of Shetland becoming like the "Channel Islands, the Faroes or the Isle of Man."

Only a minority wish to cut links with Scotland in favour of dealing directly with London. Shetland Labour Party favours a condominium, with the islands jointly governed by Scotland and England. If Scotland becomes independent, before the council finally

decides to put the question to Shetlanders in a referendum, a delegation will meet Mr Smith, Minister of State in the Privy Council Office in London today. They will seek assurances that Shetland will be safeguarded in the Act against losing status, the oil revenues or rate support grant.

The Shetland Times has attacked the council. The search for ways to protect oil revenues against any marauding tribes, it said, was the grove of a small dog that had got its teeth into an uncommonly large and meaty bone.

In the Orkney Islands there are no such fears. The scale of oil development is smaller and oil revenues are smaller. The island of Flotta, on the far side of Scaja Flow.

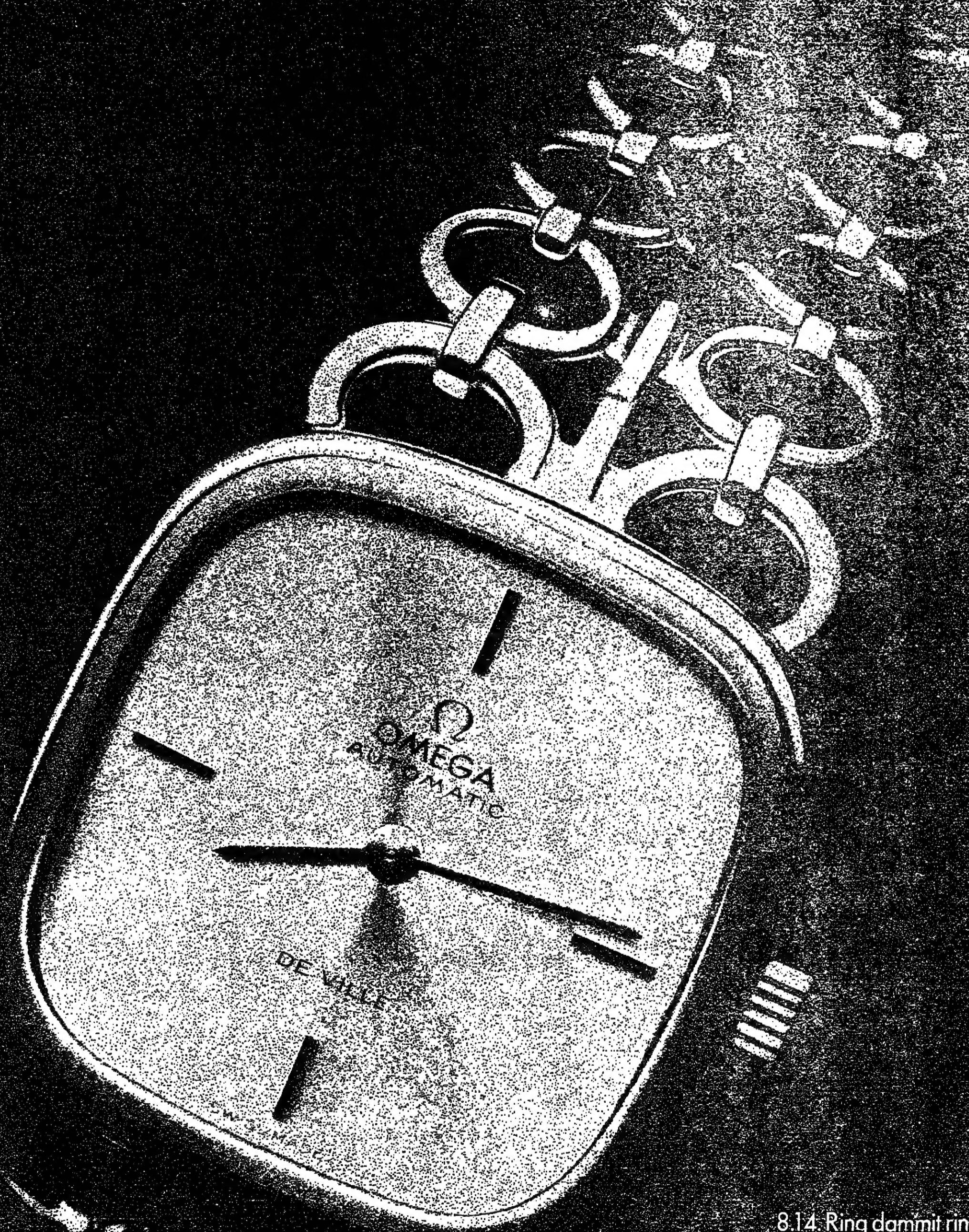
Like Shetland, the Orkneys are in the happy position of considering who to do with several million pounds that could flow into the council coffers during the lifetime of the oil wells. Their main concern is to get their hands on the money.

The Orkney Valuation Appeal Committee that the oil installations on Flotta are entitled to industrial rating, which could cut the council's income by £1.5m.

It is those matters that now grip the council rather than examining constitutional options. I did meet a thoughtful-looking Orkneyman on the pier at Scaja. He knew much about the islands, their Norse legends and the brochs and stone circles that date back to early history. "Devolution, I did hear something of that," he said reflectively. He never explained what.

Concluded

Ω
OMEGA
Life, time.



8.14 Ring dammit ring.

If he doesn't call by 8.15, he's not going to call at all.
Nor me him. Ever.

If he doesn't call by 8.15, it's curling up with the
Dostoevsky and the large Teachers. Again.

Look for the millionth time at my Omega.

8.16

Ahhh, to hell with pride.

"Hello Nick. Guess who?"

HOME NEWS

Rate-support grant for the local authorities aims to keep average increase below a tenth

By Christopher Warman
Local Government
Correspondent

The Government's rate-support grant to local authorities, to be announced on Friday, will seek to avoid any heavy burden on the ratepayers.

With the continuing need to restrict public spending, local government can expect no chance to expand services. The grant for next year aims to hold rate rises to less than a tenth over the country as a whole; but there are bound to be fluctuations.

This year the fight for shares has been between the cities, represented by the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, and the non-metropolitan areas, represented by the Association of County Councils. It appears that the cities have won the argument.

The complicated formula is to be based on the existing regression analysis method which sets out to relate the level of spending by councils with the incidence of social need. That is what the AMA demanded, what the ACC opposed, and its broad effect is to favour the big cities at the expense of the counties.

The Government, however, has been persuaded that the effect in certain areas might cause serious loss of grant to counties that have suffered in the past two years. Accordingly, the settlement is to include a "safety net" to prevent the grant from falling too far.

For the present year the Government reduced its proportion to cover local revenue spending by 4.5 per cent to 61 per cent. Since 2 per cent of the cut was to be absorbed by the use of council balances, the local authority associations believe the proportion should be increased for next year.

The Government has rejected their argument pointing to the fact that many local authorities still have considerable balances. It seems that the Government will keep its proportion at 61 per cent, although a small reduction is more likely than an increase.

The use of cash limits has brought a further discipline to local authorities, and has proved a successful, if sometimes harsh, instrument. For next year the limit will be fixed in line with the Government's pay policy, and that will inevitably mean that local authorities will have to make savings in the way of the pay of the firemen and the million manual workers in their employment.

One decision anxiously awaited concerns London. Because of its high ratable values it would normally be entitled to a share of the grant considered disproportionately high. Clackwell is a device used to take back some of that grant, and for this year's settlement the level of clawback was doubled.

AVERAGE DOMESTIC RATE PAYMENTS 1977-78

Authority (M denotes metropolitan)		£	£
Westminster (M)	278.84	Colchester	107.70
Camden (M)	258.44	Exeter	102.91
Elmbridge (Surrey)	223.04	Derby	101.04
Three Rivers (Herts)	209.49	Liverpool (M)	100.00
Manchester (M)	148.00	Harrogate	93.84
Chester	135.63	Lincoln	93.52
Nuneaton	119.76	Cardiff	90.15
Newcastle upon Tyne (M)	118.00	Lancaster	89.78
Birmingham (M)	116.00	Durham	87.26
Salisbury	112.14	Swansea	85.24
Bath	110.41	Cardiff	73.87
Ipswich	110.17	Cardiff	47.00
Maidstone	108.63	Montgomery	32.98

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'Irreparable damage to health from noise'

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs
Correspondent

The cavernous recesses of Wembley Conference Centre are reverberating this week with the often apocalyptic sound of 600 leagued gentlemen earnestly discussing noise. The event is an international symposium organized by the Institute of Acoustics on behalf of the Federation of Acoustical Societies of Europe. It has attracted leading members of the World Health Organization, ministers of European governments, and scientists from industry and from research and development institutes.

One message delivered loud and clear at the outset, by Professor Gerd Jansen, of the Johannes Gutenberg University, West Germany, was "noise can damage your health". Excess could irreparably damage the inner ear, but lower levels could cause uneasiness, annoyance, shock, fear and "other negative associations and strong feelings of discomfort".

Research had shown, the professor said, that in some countries as many as half the population were complaining of annoyance or disturbance by noise.

Nor does noise affect only the ears. It has effects on the vegetative nervous system, and hence on skin conductivity, the pupils, the secretion of sweat and saliva, and the operations of the bowel and the stomach.

These effects could not be called dangerous, but initiated studies that might make illness worse.

It is not noise that is unhealthy, Professor Jansen suggested, so much as the "emotional and cognitive reactions, triggered by other stress reaction patterns".

European responses have varied widely. Spain, according to Senator A. Garcia Sanchez, almost completely lacks legislation about noise.

In Holland, by contrast, the Government is contemplating noise rehabilitation programmes for industry, traffic and aircraft control, and in the latter case, the Ministry of the Interior, reported, the Government has made decrees against motorized lawn mowers to the extent of making absolutely illegal the moving of lawns with noisy machines at night.

Only quiet models will be permitted for use in the evenings after 7 pm.

But the London borough where the symposium is taking place, has other problems, according to a paper presented by Councillor Iain Roxburgh, chairman of the local housing committee.

Present British legislation, he said, "barely scratches the surface of the problem of traffic noise". The noise levels at the front doors of houses fronting the North Circular Road range from 65 to 85 decibels.

Brent Council had also found the Control of Pollution Act totally ineffective in dealing with noise in public places.

Nor is it only humans who suffer. Mr D. G. J. Fanshawe, of Mullard, reported that research carried out with the Medical Research Council had shown that ultrasonic emissions from remote controllers for television sets could have severely disturbing effects on pet dogs and cats.

CBI CONFERENCE/BRIGHTON

Industry doffs its cap to the housewife

Hard-pressed housewives have an example to the rest of the nation and the trade unions, Lord Watkinson, president, said when winding up the first national conference of the Confederation of British Industry, at Brighton.

If any group of workers had a special case it was the housewives, he said. "There is no union to speak for them or for their children. If they are prepared to go on, rising prices and all the rest, exercising moderation in the national interest for a little longer, should we not all follow their example and should the trade union movement not follow their example too?"

Lord Watkinson, who was given a standing ovation, also had a tribute for the "overworked and underestimated" industrialists.

"I do not know anyone who has spoken to our conference who is not in the most accurate sense of the term a worker-director. Will colleagues please note? All of us put in hours of work that would put most trade unionists to shame; only our wives know how much more."

The nation should therefore take it most to heart that it does not in the quality and ability of British management. It is the managers who provide the very basis of the state: the cost of health and education; the capital that

employed under the law there should be at least some minimum standards or rules binding on them.

The freedom of the individual was threatened by the growing pressure for recognised trade unions to have the right to strike and to block business in certain functions irrespective of whether unions had been recognised to represent all grades of employees. Such a "single channel" representation was unacceptable.

Industrial action was the final weapon in a worker's negotiating armoury. Cool-headed businessmen readily continue to allow that unfettered weapon to be used so indiscriminately.

The CBI did not feel there was much wrong with the law on picketing, but its implementation put a heavy burden on the police. The Employment Protection Act provided a procedure for claiming improvements in terms and conditions of employment in line with the general level of terms and conditions in the same trade or industry in a prescribed district. They had pointed out to the Government the dangers of that provision and their worst fears had been realised. Some form of modification must be obtained.

Mr Whitaker said they must make the imposition of additional legislative requirements at least for some time. Overburdened employers desperately needed a model of reality. Many guided zeal of those seeking to swamp them in new laws before they had adjusted to the consequences of their last efforts.

In principle the CBI supported the right of an individual to join or not to join a union. But one had to recognise reality. Many closed shops existed and experience showed they would continue to exist even without legislation. But there were certain standards beyond which the CBI was not prepared to move. It was firmly opposed to the boardroom closed shop, and if post-natal closed shop had to be conceded there must be certain safeguards, for

idea of their being forced on his company.

The most damaging result would be total disruption of the morale of senior management. Not only would many managers be removed from the board but any senior manager who was worth anything would be driven to his chance virtually disappear.

"Instead we should be saddled on the board with people who are giving us nothing but disruption, and at the end of the day would, the employees be any better off?"

Mr Dick Fattick, of Taylor Woodrow Ltd, opposed any form of industrial participation or consultation imposed by legislation, and suggested a progressive voluntary scheme over the next four years. Flexibility was possible only if arrangements were on a strictly voluntary basis. They must not fall into the trap of accepting the less onerous recommendations of the Bullock report under a sense of relief that the report was not to be implemented in full.

The conference approved both the resolution and the CBI policy document proposals on involvement in voluntary arrangements. My own view is that virtually everyone wants to be consulted and to know that his views are properly considered, but there is a firm decision quickly in the light of all the circumstances and consultation, and to be responsible for its outcome.

Directors should be concerned with the long-term prosperity of the company as a whole; there was an inherent danger in any of them representing sectional interests.

"But could there be advantages in voluntary arrangements perhaps for employee-dominated directors, to suit the needs of an individual company?" he asked. Should a participation agreement be a formal negotiating document or should it be more a reflection of a company's employment policy?

He supported the CBI view, in principle, on the advantage of formal agreements, but there was room for flexibility, particularly in large companies, between central and local agreement.

Mr Peter Nicholson, regional secretary of the CBI's northern regional council, said he was not totally against worker-director representatives but he opposed the



Lord Watkinson: "One ill-judged step will bring the whole rock face tumbling down on us all."

provides jobs and the amenities of life; the exports on which we depend for our very existence."

As the conference employers had found a voice. The main lesson from the day and a half of debate was that Britain must stop the slide to inflation-prone mediocrity before it turns into an

avalanche that will destroy us all.

"I know that a great many groups of trade unionists believe that they have a powerful case for more pay. But I hope they will listen when we say that with inflation at its present precarious level it needs only one ill-judged step on the mountain of rising

costs to bring the whole rock face tumbling down on us all.

"If excessive pay increases force up the prices we charge for our products, as they will, we shall sell fewer and fewer British goods in world markets and more and more of our fellow workers will be out of jobs."

Legislative changes sought on union power

The Confederation of British Industry's conference at Brighton yesterday gave overwhelming support to a resolution urging the Government to consider legislation to industrial relations law that would avoid conflict with the unions and free business to create wealth.

Only a few dissenting hands were raised against the resolution, which asserted the need for a more balanced relationship between employer and employee, clearer accountability by trade unions, and greater recognition of the freedom of the individual and the profitability of business.

Mr. Stanley Whitaker, president of the Engineering Employers' Federation who proposed the motion, said employers were not looking for a return to the old days of the last thing they wanted was any form of legislation that would restrict the freedom of the individual.

But they were becoming extremely nervous of the future in the industrial relations field unless some action was taken to bring some existing legislation. The balance of power had swung too far from the employers to the trade unions.

Mr Whitaker referred to the proposals set out in CBI's policy document, *Britain Means Business*, 1977, which formed the basis of the conference discussions. It stated that the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) should be seen to operate as an impartial and independent body, whereas at present its terms of reference were too narrow.

It was indefensible, he said, that the right to refer a dispute to the employment tribunal should be available only to unions; employers must have similar statutory rights.

It was impossible to have successful collective bargaining unless trade union representatives were properly representative of their members. Unless agreements were kept and dispute procedures complied with.

Employers should have a say in how unions conducted their affairs, but in exchange for the extensive privileges unions

example, for non-union employees and genuine conscientious objections.

Mr. Norman Lamond, director of the Confederation of British Industry, was loudly applauded when he called for a ban on pickets of more than 20 people, a ban on sympathy strikes and blacking, social security payments only for official strikers, and a review of payments through PAYE at the end of a strike.

"We are in grave danger of sounding like a bunch of Colonel Blimps, harking back to the good old days when we could get the faces of the poor," he said. But it was essential to convince the public that the bosses were reasonable and honest people.

In the field of industrial relations that consists us inevitably to the consideration of Mr. George Ward, of Grunwick fame. Whatever the provocation and whatever the law they say, any man who strikes out blindly is a fool.

Mr. Nigel Vinnicombe, of David Neaper Ltd, said there was widespread public concern that the industrial procedures of the unions were far from democratic, particularly in respect of the election of officials. One objection to the current procedure of more widespread voting by secret ballot. If those trade unions that had not yet put their houses in order did not do so, Parliament had a duty to do it for them.

Mr. Ronald Rawles, group director of Ever Ready Holdings, said that nowadays people could change almost anything from their religion to their names. "You can even change your wife with 56.50 and a piece of paper if you wish, but you cannot change your union."

Mr. Tom Lyon, chairman of the CBI's smaller firms council, said:

"What else is the freedom to strike but a licence to step aside from the rest of society and then hold it to ransom? Have the striking firemen ever stopped to consider what would happen if all of us with grievances simply unaccountably decided to stand aside from society and hold it to ransom? What kind of freedom is that?"

Dr. Terence Fildes, of Unicorn Industries, added his voice to those urging the bringing of trade unions within the law. He said that even police control of the Grunwick mob had been described by leading members of the Government in terms of police brutality.

Let us have control of unruly mobs, whether they be trade unionists, left-wing demonstrators or National Front rallies. The public had seen in Grunwick scenes that could be described as the totally unacceptable face of trade unionism.

Summing up the debate, Mr. Terence Beckett, chairman and chief executive of the Ford Motor Company, said: "We are the chaps with the buckets and shovels who come along after the Grand Panacea or the Lord Mayor's coach and clear up after the legislation. We are tired of it. Industrial relations are a serious matter. We need to seek an honest bipartisan approach by the political parties with government, management and unions to build a permanent and productive relationship in Britain."

The prime responsibility for putting the roundabout back on feet by a radical improvement in industrial relations and a clearer appreciation of economic reality rested squarely, although reluctantly, on the shoulders of management. They were the only group in a position to take the necessary initiative to bridge the communications gap with the work force.

From the unions they expected leadership, strict observance of agreements and avoidance of unofficial strikes. They also wanted the unions to be more effective in promoting their members' interests.

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Export licences withheld from two Canaletto

By Our Arts Reporter

Two paintings by Canaletto, "Warwick Castle: the east front" and "Warwick Castle: the west front from the courtyard" together valued at more than £500,000, have had their export licences withheld for six months by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art.

Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, Minister of State, Department of Education and Science, who is responsible for the arts, has accepted the committee's recommendation.

If a public collection in Britain offers to buy either of the paintings for £270,000 by midnight on May 11, 1978, the export licence for that painting will not be granted.

The paintings, four Canaletto altogether, are understood to have been sold to a buyer in the United States.

Wealthy pensioner tricked into marriage, court told

From Our Correspondent

A wealthy Blackpool pensioner was tricked into a marriage that was part of a plot to get his life savings of £23,000, the prosecution alleged at Preston Crown Court, Lancashire, yesterday.

Jean Forbes, aged 22, was introduced to Mr Frederick Houlton, aged 65, as a rich heiress with a house of her own and a £2,000 car. Mr Houlton was also promised £6,000 for marrying her.

In fact, Miss Forbes was unemployed, and helped to look after donkeys on the beach at Blackpool, it was stated.

The prosecution said the architect of the marriage was Carol Ann Hodgson, aged 21, who, with her boy friend, had befriended Mr Houlton and then kept him a virtual prisoner in their flat. Eventually he gave way to threats and trans-

ferred £11,000 to Miss Hodgson.

Mr Richard Henriques, for the Crown, said Miss Hodgson wanted the rest of his capital and decided to get a girl to marry him. On the way to the wedding at Blackpool Register Office Miss Forbes had produced an attaché case full of £5 notes. Mr Houlton counted £2,000 and then gave up. There was little doubt, counsel added, that that money was his own.

Miss Forbes, Miss Hodgson and her mother, Mrs Pamela Ivy Riches, aged 45, all of Leyland Gate, Blackpool, were charged with conspiring to defraud Mr Houlton of his money.

Miss Hodgson and Mr Dixon also deny demanding money with menaces and detaining Mr Houlton against his will.

The trial continued today.

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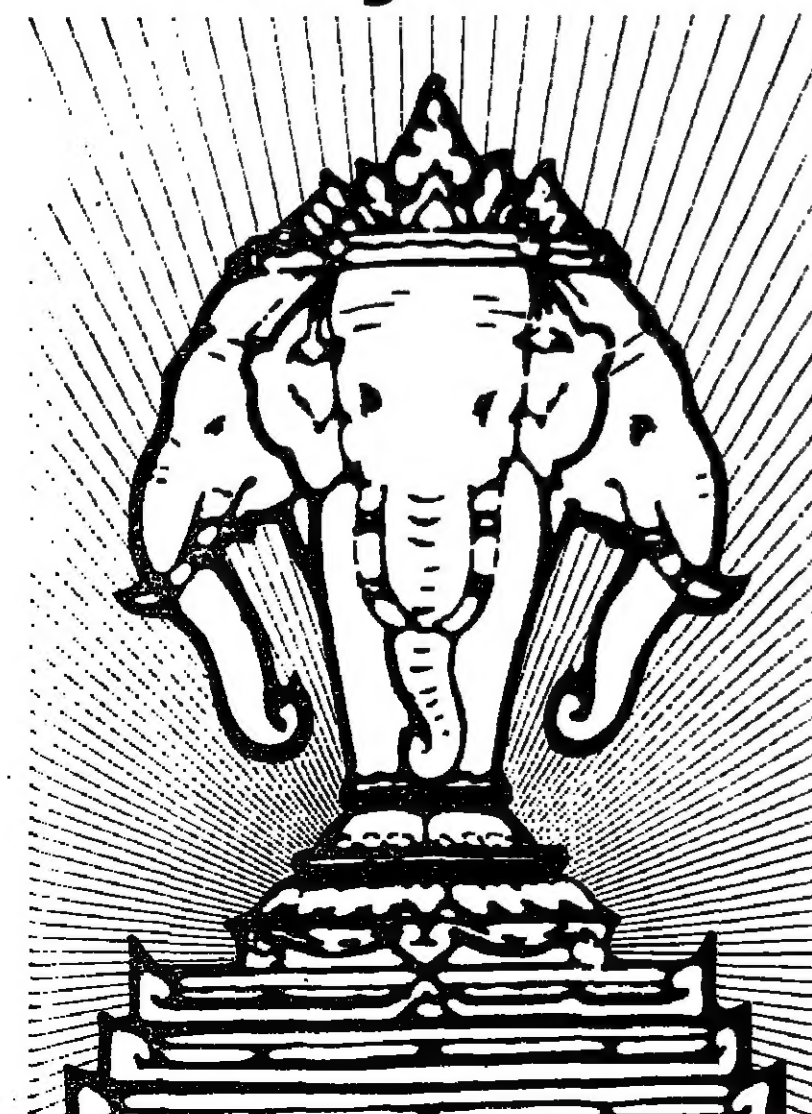
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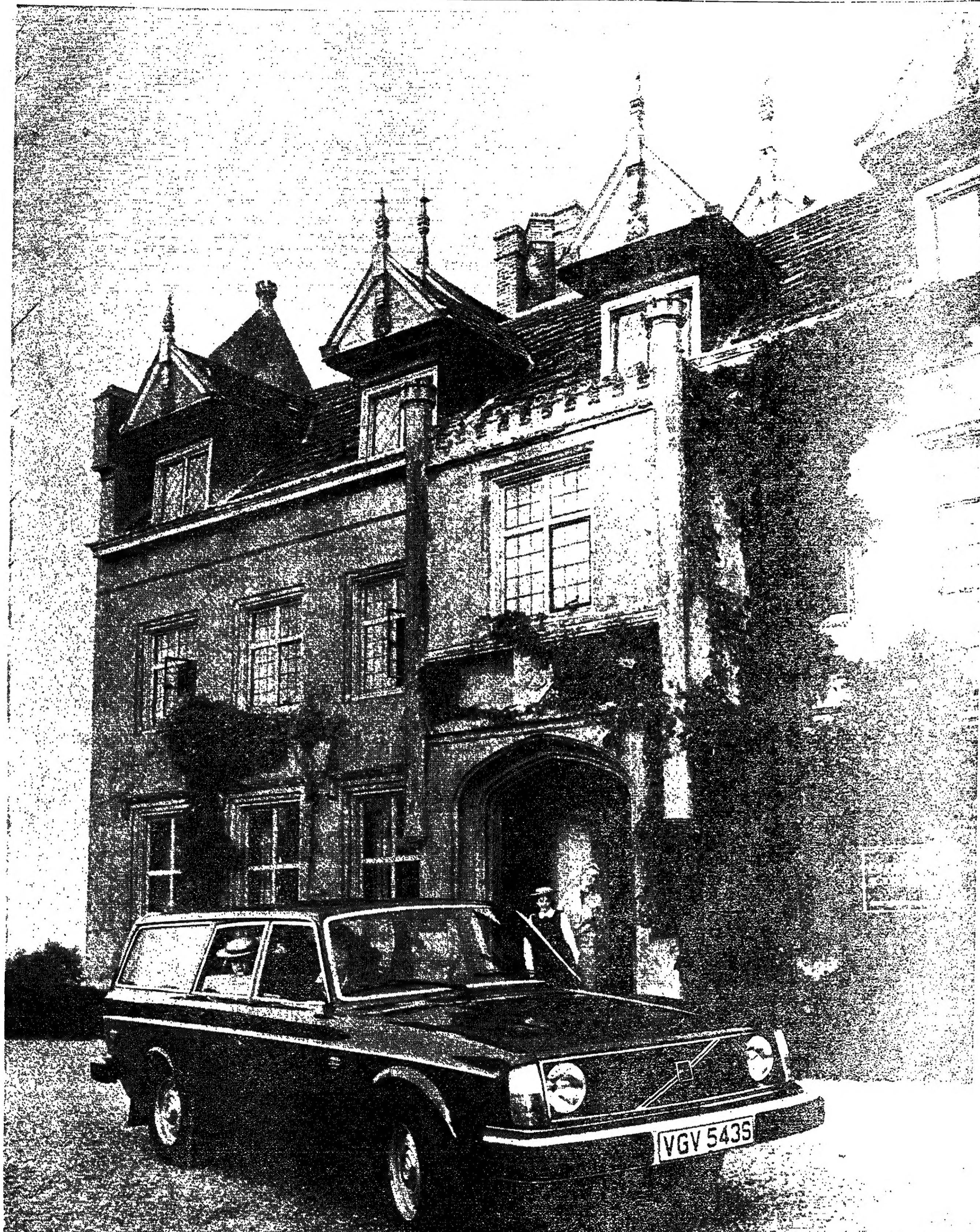
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OVERSEAS

Gun battles flare again in Ethiopian capital

Nairobi, Nov. 15.—Gunfire crackled at noon today in Ethiopia's capital of Addis Ababa and diplomats there suspected that a bloody power struggle was going on.

The envoys said the most likely explanation for the latest political violence in Ethiopia was that it indicates a struggle for power in and outside the Dergue, the ruling 80-man military council led by Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile-Mariam, a Marxist.

The vice-chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel Amatu Abate, was executed last Saturday as a counter-revolutionary.

On Sunday, "counter-revolutionaries" shot dead an officer close to the Dergue, Lieutenant Solomon Legesse, Addis Ababa radio said. The Marxist rulers then called for "red revolutionary terror" to strike back at their foes.

Addis Ababa radio today announced that four counter-revolutionaries were killed and 15 captured in a city precinct by a local militia force.

Gun battles broke out at night in Addis Ababa and assassinations in broad daylight are increasing, according to diplomats in the city. The targets range from rulers to figures in the Dergue.

Violence at the top in Ethiopia tends to unleash feuding and score-settling at a lower level, which the military government often describes as "cleansing the revolutionary camp". —Reuter.



The Shah, wiping tears from his eyes during Mr Carter's speech of welcome. With him is Empress Farah.

Shah caught in tear gas at White House

From David Cross Washington, Nov. 15

Tear gas drifted across the White House lawn to the discomfiture of President Carter today as he officially welcomed the Shah of Iran to Washington.

Several hundred angry young opponents of the Shah, wielding sticks and shouting slogans, broke through a thin line of policemen separating them from a much larger group of the Shah's supporters, who were standing on platforms to watch the ceremony.

When the demonstrators—

mainly students—set upon the largely peaceful and affluent-looking group of supporters, police fired teargas grenades to keep the two sides apart.

They did not succeed. As the supporters fled screaming from the demonstrators, several policemen and members of the pro-Shah group were badly cut and bruised in scuffles—the most violent Washington had witnessed since the anti-Vietnam demonstrations.

Some children fainted and others were separated from their parents as they ran away.

On the other side of the

White House a much larger group of protesters hurled posters and stones at police who were trying to separate them from a pro-Shah group. When several demonstrators broke through the police cordon, the supporters ran, dropping their banners and posters on the ground.

Later the demonstrators burnt effigies of the Shah and released balloons depicting him as a puppet of the American Administration.

The trouble began when a helicopter, thought to be carrying the Shah, approached the White House to a salute of guns

and music. The helicopter veered away at the last minute and the Shah arrived instead by car. Until then the anti-Shah group, who had begun to assemble in the early hours of the morning, had limited their protests to chants and the waving of placards.

Mr Carter, who winced when the tear gas reached him, welcomed his guest as "a long-time friend of our country".

The President is counting on the Shah's influence to hold down oil prices in the new round of talks among oil-producing countries.

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Cubans leave Somalia: Russians go today

Mogadishu, Nov. 15.—All Cubans living in Somalia left the country today less than 48 hours after the Somali Government broke diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Somalia decided on Sunday to break relations with Cuba and to end its 1974 treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union. It accused the Soviet Union and Cuba of planning a joint attack on Somalia from Ethiopia.

Soviet military and civilian advisers, believed to number about 1,500, are expected to begin leaving tomorrow. Airport sources said that they would be flown out on special aircraft.

The Cubans, including 10 women and two small children, appeared to have little baggage with them. The Cuban Embassy was closed and barred, with armed guards at its gates.

Somalia will boycott all meetings of the Organization of African Unity held in Addis Ababa, where it has its headquarters, the Somali News Agency reported today. Mr Abderrahman Barre, the Foreign Minister, has informed Mr William Eteki Mboumoua, the OAU secretary-general, of the decision.

Moscow.—The Soviet Union said today that Somalia had renounced the friendship treaty between the two countries because Moscow refused to support it in stirring up a "fratricidal war" with Ethiopia.

Tass said that the decision showed that "chauvinist expansionist moods prevailed over common sense inside the Somali Government".

It added: "The Somali Government took its action unilaterally and in conditions of factual war it had unleashed against neighbouring Ethiopia."

"Essentially behind this action lies dissatisfaction because the Soviet Union did not support Somalia's territorial claims on a neighbouring state and refused to facilitate the stirring of fratricidal war in the Horn of Africa".

Peking.—China today welcomed Somalia's renunciation of the treaty with the Soviet Union and saw it as a victory for Africa and the developing countries.

News of the Somali action was splashed across the foreign page of the Peking People's Daily, and was accompanied by a commentary by the New China news agency praising the Somalia for their "dauntless will" in safeguarding the country's sovereignty and independence and their opposition to interference by the superpowers.

There was no mention in the commentary, however, of Somalia's decision to break diplomatic relations with Cuba.

It said that "by taking this daring action, Somalia has stripped off the mask of friendship and assistance of the Soviet Union and inflicted a heavy blow at Soviet hegemonism". Khartoum: President Nimeiry of Sudan said last night that the Soviet Union should pull out of Africa "or face forcible expulsion" as recently happened in Somalia and before that in other states.

In his monthly broadcast he told the Soviet Communist Party that the success of the Russian revolution "depended on Soviet soil: it was not forced on Soviet soil from abroad".

Backward peoples could not be helped by exporting arms to them but by providing factories, tools, farm equipment and technology. Exports of arms were "an assassination of the principles of peace, justice and non-alignment". —Reuter and Agence France Presse.

Korchmoy delays Spassky match

Belgrade, Nov. 15.—The world chess championship semifinal match between Viktor Korchmoy and Boris Spassky will start next Monday instead of tomorrow as had been planned.

Korchmoy, who injured his hand in a car accident recently, asked for a postponement today and Spassky agreed. —Agence France-Presse.

Chinese aid for Malta harbour

Valletta, Nov. 15.—China is to help Malta build a breakwater at the site where a new harbour and industrial estate are planned, Mr Micallef, the Prime Minister, has told Parliament.

After returning last week from his third official visit to China in five years, he said the Chinese would also build two factories on the island. —Reuter.

Philip of Macedon's grave 'discovered' near Salonika

Salonika, Nov. 15.—Archaeologists have discovered a royal grave in the village of Vergina, 40 miles west of Salonika which they believe belonged to Philip of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great, sources at the University of Salonika said yesterday.

Within a mound 40 feet high and 300 feet in diameter, it was filled with "archaeological items and artifacts of immense value," the sources said.

A group of archaeologists from the university discovered the grave earlier this month in the village, while working under the direction of Professor Manolis Andronikos.

"The only thing I can say is that the finds of Vergina are of utmost archaeological value. The university will make an announcement on the discovery within the next few days. This is not a personal matter, but a national one," Dr Andronikos said.

Persons who saw the grave said it was covered by 20,000 tons of soil, was full of gold, ivory and wooden items, surrounding a golden container with the bones of the dead.

"The bones were clean, washed with wine and perfume and laid with care inside the container," the witnesses said. Among the other finds were a breastplate made of silver, a

helmet, a sword and leg guards. There are things here to fill a whole museum", one of them declared.

Next to the Beehive-shaped tomb archaeologists said they found a small ancient temple, built at the same time the grave was dug—around 350 BC. Thieves had plundered the temple and all it contained was stolen.

The tomb's entrance was closed off by a marble slab and over it was a 24-by-15 foot mural depicting a hunting scene.

Archaeologists said the finds at Vergina are important from the historical point of view because they indicate that Ages, the first capital of the kingdom of Macedonia and burial place for the ruling kings, was at Vergina. Until now that had not been established.

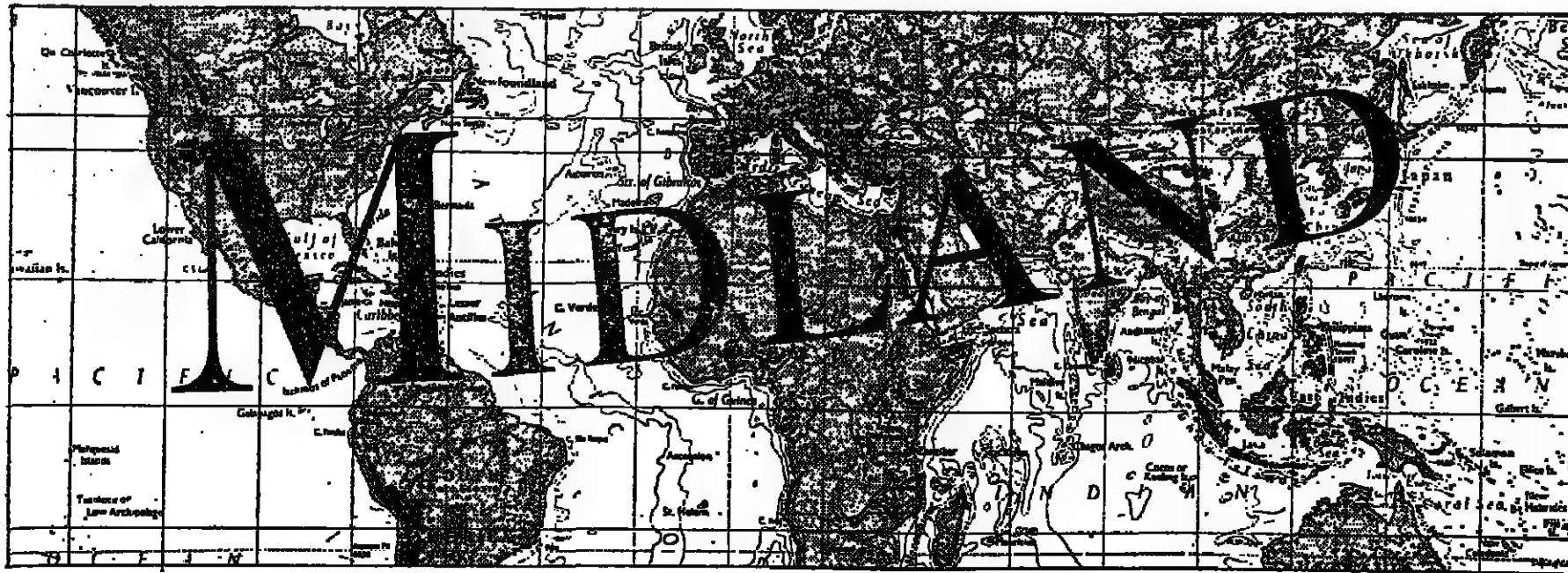
Philip of Macedon, was the strongest potentate of his time. He not only defeated all Greek states and united them under his rule, but he prepared a powerful army for a campaign against Persia in order to free the Greek states of Asia Minor from Persian rule.

Philip was assassinated under mysterious circumstances in 336 BC and was succeeded by Alexander, then 20, who carried out his father's plan against the Persian empire.—UPI.

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OVERSEAS

Contradictory police evidence exposed in Biko inquest hearing

From Nicholas Ashford
Pretoria, Nov 15

The second day of the inquest into the death of Steve Biko, the South African Black Consciousness leader, concluded today with a number of contradictions in police evidence being exposed by counsel for the Biko family, Mr Sydney Kentridge.

During the day the police were also accused of trying to "smear" Mr Biko after his death by suggesting that he was planning revolutionary acts.

Most of today's proceedings were taken up with a cross-examination of Major Harold Snyman, a Port Elizabeth security policeman, who yesterday had told the court how Mr Biko had been involved in a struggle with five of his interrogators.

Altogether Major Snyman spent six hours in the witness box much of the time being subjected to close and persistent questioning by Mr Kentridge. However, at no stage did he become flustered, even when it was demonstrated that some of the statements he had made under oath were incorrect.

Shortly after the inquest resumed this morning Major Snyman, who headed the team interrogating Mr Biko before his death, said Mr Biko had "bumped his head against a wall" during a struggle in Port Elizabeth security police headquarters on September 7.

Asked which part of his head he had hit against the wall, Major Snyman replied: "The back part. Mr Biko had also suffered a cut lip in the struggle but had no other noticeable injuries."

According to the post-mortem report Mr Biko died as a result of a head injury, indicated by a laceration on the left forehead. Major Snyman said there were no signs of any such injuries after the struggle.

Mr Kentridge pointed out that there were 28 affidavits made by policemen and doctors to connect Mr Biko with this incident, but in not one of them was mention made of Mr Biko falling with his head against the wall.

Major Snyman was then asked by Mr M. P. R. van Rooyen, the magistrate presiding over the inquest, whether he had actually seen Mr Biko bump his head against the wall. He replied that he did not see it himself as he was involved in the struggle. "I was told by a number of men that he did not bump his head against the wall," Mr Snyman said. "That is so," replied Major Snyman.

After this admission Mr Kentridge said: "I don't think there is any value in your statement."

He suggested instead that the injury which led to Mr Biko's death possibly took place on the night before the struggle, when Major Snyman was not on duty. At that time Mr Biko was being held alone in handcuffs and leg-irons at the

security police headquarters, guarded by three policemen led by Lieutenant Wilken, whose name is not among those who have been called to give evidence.

Later Major Snyman said he believed Mr Biko had suddenly gone "berserk" and attacked his interrogators because he was suddenly confronted with information which would destroy his public image as a man of peace and show him up as a revolutionary.

Under cross-examination by Mr P. R. van Rooyen, counsel representing the police involved in the case, Major Snyman claimed that Mr Biko was involved in efforts to set up a new revolutionary movement in South Africa. It was to be called the United Revolutionary Front and would comprise the African National Congress (ANC), the Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC), the Black People's Convention (BPC) and the Unity Movement.

Mr Biko had gone to Cape Town shortly before his arrest to discuss forming this organization. There would be an internal wing for recruiting people to the movement and another wing abroad.

Major Snyman also said he had proof that Mr Biko was involved in drafting and distributing a revolutionary pamphlet in Port Elizabeth on August 17. The pamphlet, which he read to the court, urged black students, workers and parents to show solidarity and to take a stand. No mercy should be shown to collaborators, who should be killed. When there were bodies lying in the streets, then there would be freedom.

Major Snyman said the police had confronted Mr Biko with evidence of his authorship of the pamphlet, together with sworn statements by a number of his friends about his revolutionary activities. It was at this point that Mr Biko launched his attack.

Mr Kentridge interposed to say that the statements which the police claimed to have shown Mr Biko could not have existed at the time as they were all dated after his death. The magistrate ruled that they were not admissible as evidence, although he accepted the pamphlet.

Mr Kentridge said the claims that the statements had been laid before Mr Biko were a "smear" prepared after his death. He accused Major Snyman of "trying to convict a dead man, a man who could not be confronted with any evidence after death in order to protect yourself."

Captain Sibert, another Port Elizabeth security policeman, who was among the five who overpowered Mr Biko, was asked whether any documents had been shown to Mr Biko during interrogation. Asked if he had seen Mr Biko being confronted with any documents, he replied: "Not that I am aware."

Cape Town police fire on crowd and wound six

Cape Town, Nov 15.—The police today fired into a crowd of about 1,000 angry blacks near here, wounding six including a woman.

The violence erupted at about noon when youths from Cape Town's segregated Langa township took to the streets, stoning vehicles and setting others alight.

By mid-afternoon among police patrols had scaled off Langa, one of three black townships, with a total population of 100,000, nine miles north-east of the city.

Major-General T. M. Bisschoff, the divisional police commissioner, described the situation as "serious". He said the wounded, taken to hospital under police guard, were not in a serious condition. A policeman was also reported to be injured.

There was no immediate indication of the cause of the violence, which followed sporadic stoning of cars yesterday on the main airport road, where runs between the black townships. The windscreen of at least three cars driven by whites were smashed.

The unrest coincided with the opening of a 350-mile north in Pretoria, of the inquest into the death of Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader. Witnesses said the trouble began after the Administration Board officials combed the townships saying they were searching for layabouts.

Blacks gathered after several people were detained. When police arrived, they were greeted by hail of stones from a crowd of 1,000. —AP.

Legal challenge to Pakistan treason trial

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad, Nov 15

Abdul Wali Khan, president of the outlawed National Awami Party and leader of the Opposition in the 1972 National Assembly, has challenged the legality of his continued detention and trial in Hyderabad jail.

Sind High Court today admitted a habeas corpus petition for regular hearing filed on behalf of Abdul Wali Khan and two others who have been on trial on charges of anti-state conspiracy and treason since 1975.

The National Awami Party officials are among 40 accused persons who were ordered to be tried for treason by Mr Bhutto, the former Prime Minister. They include former governors of Baluchistan and North West Frontier Provinces.

Mr Wali Khan in his petition maintained that the special court as constituted after Justice Abdul Jabbar left it was unconstitutional and the trial was illegal. He further maintained that the detention of the others facing trial was similarly illegal. The High Court will hear the petition later this month.

It has been widely reported for some time that the government of General Zia might dissolve the special court and put the accused on trial in regular courts.

More US pressure will ignite bitter political conflict

Tension among American Jews over Carter policy on Israel

From William Frankel
New York, Nov 15

A recent public opinion poll on the Middle East published by the New York Times and CBS shows that the American people are losing their confidence in President Carter. While 55 per cent still believe he is doing a good job, the figure was 66 per cent in January.

As for his Middle East policy, which has been seen as erratic American influence on the Israeli client, 24 per cent cited the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) as being responsible for the continuing conflict, 23 per cent Russia, 16 per cent the Arabs and only 8 per cent Israel.

In the November issue of the influential magazine *Commentary*, two distinguished academic figures, Professor Seymour Lipset and Professor William L. Oatis, the Black People's Convention (BPC) and the Unity Movement.

Their first finding is that at no time has any poll revealed more support for the Arab than for Israel. More relevant, from the point of view of present United States Government attitudes, is the conclusion from the Yankelovich polls between 1975 and 1977 that American opinion generally has grown increasingly sympathetic to Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

On the question of the occupied territories, the two scholars find that there is a "public feeling that Israel is holding them unfairly and should just give them back. Nor does any survey data suggest that the American public takes the Israeli position as the main obstacle to peace."

If President Carter's advisers had any hopes on that score, they have been disappointed to learn that none of the polls reflects any serious division in Jewish opinion. The latest poll shows that 94 to 96 per cent of American Jews are committed to the Israeli position. The article quotes with approval the comment of Professor Nathan Glazer that "Israel has

become the religion of American Jews."

The most remarkable of the statistics in the *Commentary* article is the statement attributed to Mr Pat Cadell, President Carter's own pollster, that, outside the South, Jews constitute 7 per cent of those who do vote though they are only 3 per cent of the population. This is because more of them go to the trouble to vote.

Close to 90 per cent of American Jews vote in national elections compared with 53 per cent of the electorate as a whole. "If one adds to this figure (7 per cent) the additional 20 per cent or so of non-Jews whom opinion polls show to be as passionately pro-Israel as the Jews, it is clear that Israel enjoys the backing of one of the largest veto groups in the country," the article says.

Peace actions which antagonize or strain this body of opinion can affect the electoral fortunes of many candidates, including those running for President.

Already Mr Mark Siegel, a member of the President's staff, has reported that "there is a tension in the (Jewish) community that is almost electric." Mr Jody Powell, the Presidential press secretary, has said that "this could be the biggest, most sensitive political problem we face in 1980."

Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, has had numerous meetings with the Jewish leadership in recent weeks. The President has reaffirmed that America will always stand by Israel. He has praised Israel's willingness to negotiate without preconditions "an attitude which others must accept."

At the same time however he called on the Jewish leaders not to allow "intolerance or fanaticism" to endanger what he described as "the best opportunity for a permanent Middle East peace in our lifetime."

Last Sunday, *The New York Times* devoted the whole of its leader space to discussing "The Jews and Jimmy Carter". It defined the problem as being

brought about by most American Jewish leaders "acting as if President Carter is risking Israel's survival for an illusory Middle East settlement" while the Administration is becoming "increasingly annoyed by the formidable resistance the President's diplomacy is getting from the American Jewish community."

What worries this most influential of American newspapers is that Jewish leaders are in danger of losing their credibility both in the United States and Israel. If they merely appear to be "a dutiful echo of Israeli policy," it gives a warning against a siege mentality which persuades American Jews that "they cannot afford the luxury of an open debate."

American Jews will not publicly break ranks so long as the pressure appears to be on Israel, but there are indications that the efforts being made by the President and his entourage to reassure the pro-Israel lobby are having some effect. At any rate, it is significant that so far the attack on the Administration's policy has not been personally directed at Mr Carter.

He is seen as sincere in his claims of friendship for Israel, but in too great a hurry and inexperienced in international affairs. As one Jewish spokesman put it, "many American Jews honestly feel that they know more about the Middle East than Jimmy Carter."

For the time being, President Carter's efforts have gained him some breathing space. But he must know that any further pressure on Israel beyond the concessions he won in the Carter-Dayton working paper for a resumption of the Geneva peace talks will revive all the fears and suspicions of the Israeli lobby.

He must now be seen to be persuading the Arabs to accept his working paper as a basis for the Geneva meeting. He is so anxious to achieve, any tough stand now against Israel would bring about a bitter conflict, with serious consequences for both President Carter's policies and his own political future.

Frogmen seize three from Spanish fishing boat

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Nov 15

Part of the Spanish fleet was patrolling off the coast of Western Sahara yesterday when a Spanish fishing vessel from the Canary Islands was attacked and three of its crew captured. According to reports this evening, most of the fleet's frigates are in the Canary Islands area.

The fishing vessel *Saia*, with a crew of 15, was attacked on Sunday night by a rubber launch with three frogmen in it. The fishing boat was speared with machine gun bullets and mortar bombs were thrown at it. The frogmen boarded the boat and took three of the crew. Suspect fell on the Polisario which is waging guerrilla warfare in the former Spanish colony, but there was no confirmation from the organization. The attack came on the second anniversary of the Madrid agreement to cede its colony to Morocco and Mauritania. The Polisario

is holding hostage eight Frenchmen captured in Mauritania last month.

Since the death of General Franco, the Polisario, which is supported by Algeria, has continued its struggle for independence. It has brought production at the phosphate mine at Bou Craa almost to a halt as a result of the seizure.

Spain rid itself of its colony a week before General Franco died. The left in Spain has criticised the decision and has called for the agreement to be revoked.

The Canary Islands fishing fleet is an important part of the island's economy and one of its traditional fishing grounds has always been off Western Sahara. In March another fishing boat was attacked in the same area and the Polisario claimed responsibility.

Last night in Las Palmas demonstrators supporting the Polisario marched to the Moroccan consulate.

Kaunda plea for Africa to build uranium plant

Lusaka, Nov 15.—President Kaunda of Zambia today urged the setting up of a uranium enrichment plant by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which would be shared by the more industrialized African countries.

"It cannot be beyond the capacity of Africa under the OAU to establish a uranium-processing centre, I mean an enrichment plant of our own," Mr Kaunda said at the opening here of a five-day International Atomic Energy Agency conference.

mass of India's population little better off, while unemployment mounted. The Janata Party admits that the state's policy has been to be worked out, but it proposes to start putting it into practice over the next 10 years in at least three fields of mass consumption—clothing, footwear and soap.

The Government should not permit its consumption of weaving capacity in the organized mills sector, the policy suggests. New capacity should be created only among handlooms and powerlooms with widely diffused ownership.

Large-scale capacity should be progressively diverted over the next decade, the Government is told. Mr Madhav Limaye, one of the Janata Party's general secretaries, who presented the new economic policy to the press, said the basic approach was that "what can be produced by the small-scale or large-scale sector, and what can be produced by the small-scale shall not be open for large-scale industry."

"Statutory discrimination is envisaged, with the only exception permitted to the general rule being industrial production entirely for export," he added. While India's big industry is being advised to withdraw gradually from the consumer goods sector, the Janata policy statement envisages only a very

Australia may slaughter cattle to halt disease

Sydney, Nov 15.—The Australian Government is considering sending troops by helicopter to slaughter tens of thousands of cattle in order to stop the spread of a disease which threatens the livestock industry.

The discovery of a new strain of bluetongue disease among cattle in the vast Northern Territory was announced last Sunday.

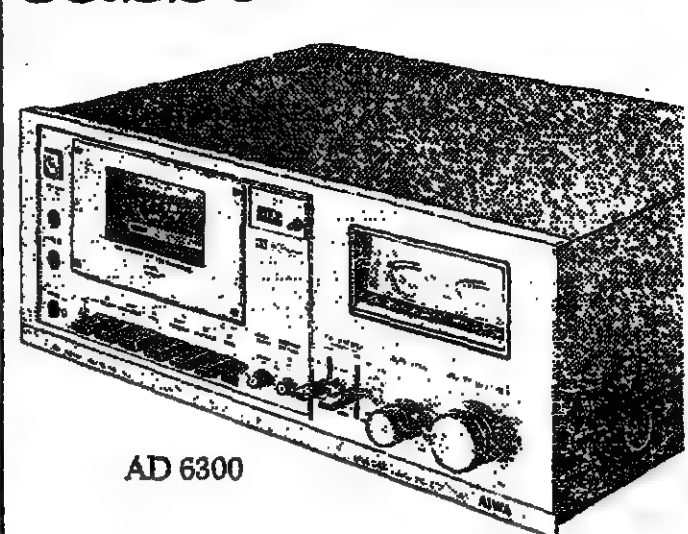
Bluetongue is a debilitating disease affecting both cattle and sheep. To prevent its spread to other

states, the movement of all animals out of the Northern Territory has been banned. Officials and ranchers are particularly concerned about its spread to sheep flocks in other parts of the country.

Britain and New Zealand have halted imports of live Australian cattle and sheep.

In northern Queensland thousands of sheep and cattle have been killed by fast-moving bushfires in the past 24 hours.—AP and Agence France-Presse.

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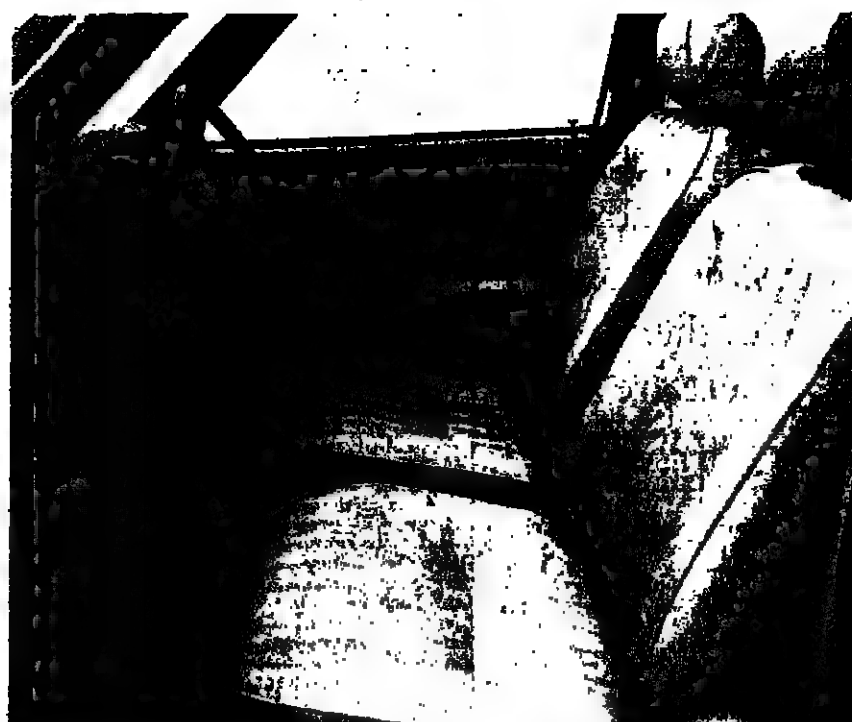
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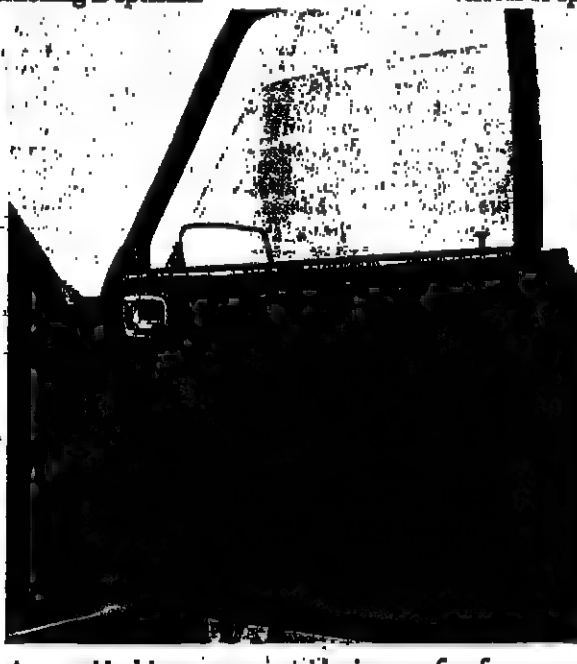
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Northern Ireland: the tumbling statistics in bandit country

South Armagh
One bright Sunday morning recently the band of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment marched through the rough little border village of Forkhill, and the local population followed it. They followed it more out of amazement than menace while the band thumped and puffed its way to the perimeter of the embarrased Forkhill camp and played for men of the Q.L.R.'s B Company in the thin autumn sunshine. That may not sound much. But it was the first time it had happened since the troubles began, and is being seen as further evidence of Northern Ireland's slow painful return from the abyss.

Now for the bad news. There are still two IRA Active Service Units (ASUs) operating out of the republic in the bandit country of South Armagh. Their capacity to inflict brutal injury was also exemplified recently when a soldier was blinded by a bomb. Another bomb outside St Joseph's School on the outskirts of Crossmaglen blew out 35 plate glass windows when it was detonated by the army.

But even in Crossmaglen where shopkeepers still decline to serve soldiers for fear of their lives, or their livelihood, there are signs of war weariness. Reflected in his parishioners by the Catholic priest after the St Joseph's School bomb, Father John "Evil" is all "Evil" is "Evil" but when those engaged in it put at serious risk the lives of innocent children and the public it is time that all of us voice our protest. People in Crossmaglen were also upset by the murder last August of Willie Martin, aged 64, who was dubbed an informer by the Provisionals and who left a crippled widow.

Both the army and the police are anxious to avoid sounding over-optimistic, partly because complacency could all too easily be exposed, and partly because the gunmen might view it as a challenge. But privately they are as happy as can be expected with the progress now being made.

The total number of deaths in the first nine months of this year in Northern Ireland was 59, a huge drop from the 235 during the same period last year. Civilian casualties during June and August were the lowest since early 1974 and September was the first month since June 1971 in which no civilians died at all—though the pattern has not been sustained since. Explosions in the six counties were more than halved from 518 to 230 and the number of shooting incidents was down by a third from 1,465 to 954.

Armed robberies and attempted robberies were down from 644 to 59, and bank robberies from 24 to only three. The amount of money taken was also less, £388,200 against £475,000—and the police have recovered £250,000. Meanwhile the number of people charged in the courts has continued to rise. The first nine months this year showed a total of 1,047 against 922 in 1976. These figures also conceal a rise from 156 to 225 for the numbers charged with murder and attempted murder—and some of the crimes which are now being brought before the courts go back to 1970.

Altogether more than 7,500 weapons, over 900,000 rounds

'Even in Crossmaglen where shopkeepers decline to serve soldiers for fear of their lives there are signs of war weariness'

of ammunition and 116 tons of explosives have been seized by the security forces since Operation Motorman in July 1972, when the army entered the "no-go" areas of Ulster and began to exercise control over a situation which had seemed in danger of slipping away.

Even the recent, dangerous blizzards of incendiaries which the IRA has launched in Ulster's population centres, has some ironic compensations—reflecting as it does the increasing difficulty experienced by the terrorists in getting hold of high explosives.

It would be foolish to exaggerate the extent of the attrition. Although the reorganised, much-improved RUC has recently closed 16 illegal drinking clubs—a traditional source of IRA income, the Provisionals still exert a Mafia-like grip on areas of West Belfast. Their tighter cellular structure, developed over the past year or two, enables several "Godfathers" to lead apparently blameless lives at home while still controlling operations.

There are an estimated 200 active gunmen still operating in and around the North. These include a large number of young, inexperienced boys, according to intelligence sources. But they are still capable of indiscriminate attacks against "soft" targets, and there are still enough experienced hard-liners to direct them. Moreover, while the stores of explosives is thought to be depleted, the Provisionals still have plenty of firearms, and money to buy more, although their financial resources too are thought to be low.

Even in this almost mystical land of South Armagh people are talking about the end of the troubles. This may be premature. But enough progress has been made for the police to ease their way back into the front line under Mr Roy Mason's policy of *The Way Ahead*, and for political leaders to be tentatively extended.

There is even talk of a further reduction in the Army presence from its current 14,500 in the not too distant future.

With the firemen's strike to complicate matters, this week of all weeks might seem a bad time to make any optimistic prognosis. But the progress so far made in Ulster's slow recovery deserves to be reflected.

Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The Why, When, Where and How of Hine Cognac

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Mr Callaghan's strategy of hanging on to office until our economic difficulties have eased seems on the latest poll findings to be paying handsome dividends. The parties are now even in respect of voting intentions which would have been inconceivable six months ago. Is a February election now more likely or even more advisable for Labour?

Such questions tend to be answered by further references to the latest polls, or by extrapolation into the future of trends over the past three months. Polling figures are undoubtedly illuminating. But what they provide is a description of intentions and feelings at particular points in time. There is no guarantee that these will persist, particularly if the issues affecting them change.

A crucial question is what issues will predominate in the next election campaign, and how will they affect voting? Here the poll figures are uninformative. One may infer from the negative reactions of many electors to comprehensive education that this issue will be important. However most electors expressing these views would probably have voted Conservative anyway, so the net effects of this issue on the election outcome are probably limited.

In trying to explain and predict election outcomes we are dealing with three types of elector. The first is the loyalist who will stick with his party under all conceivable circumstances.

In trying to anticipate changes we need to concentrate not on the loyalists but on electors who switch their votes under the influence of new issues. Since every policy-stand will attract some electors to a party while repelling others, we need also to distinguish re-

procal flows of voters between Labour and Conservatives (which leave the overall result unchanged) from the net gains and losses of support which are the immediate determinants of the election outcome. Typically these imbalanced net inflows come not from supporters of the other major party but from non-voter and parties.

In work supported by the Social Science Research Council over the past few years we have been trying to produce estimates of the net gains and losses to the major parties associated with different issues. This has involved grouping specific campaign issues into 14 broad types like civil order, constitutional, regional, and socioeconomic redistribution.

With each of these types we have associated either "small", "medium" or "large" effects—for example issues related to foreign affairs seem to be remote from the average elector to produce more than small net gains in support. With each type we have also made a judgment about which party issues are likely to favour, on the assumption that electors dislike proposals for change unless they can see immediate personal benefits accruing from them.

Issues involving socioeconomic redistribution are a case in point, where the impact is large and favours Labour. Most of the issues of issue have been Conservative. Some of course have no fixed effects—the Government record obviously depends on an issue both in magnitude and direction on what the Government has done similarly with foreign affairs and the impact of candidates.

In setting up these issue types and assessing their impact we have drawn heavily on accounts of voters' views by political commentators. Discussions of elections always have

Likely issues in a general election held in February-March 1978 and their net contribution to percentages voting Conservative and Labour.

Issue	Direction	Net % Gain/Loss to Party
Wages, Inflation, Prices, Cost of Living, Unemployment	Negative aspects of Gov record	Large - Labour -3% Labour
Stabilisation of Pounds & Balance of Payments, Small aspects of Reduction in Gov record	Positive aspects of Gov record	Small + Labour +1% Labour
Personality of Mr Callaghan, Strikes, Trade Union Power, Level of Taxation, Individual Initiative	Personal	Medium + Labour +2% Labour
Constitutional—Scottish & Welsh Devolution	Personal	Small + Con +1% Con
		Medium + Con +2% Con

to make judgments about the relative effects of various factors; what we have done is simply to generalize and systematize these.

We can tell whether our judgments are plausible by classifying issues for each of the post-war elections into our type, assigning directions and magnitudes to them, and seeing whether increasing issue advantages for each of the major parties are associated with increased percentage votes (and vice versa). They are, very clearly; moreover they are associated in the same way for both Labour and Conservative.

From this comparison we can also see what precise net percentage gain is associated with the transition from "small" to "medium" and "medium" to "large" impacts. The gain in both cases is about 1 per cent. Since we can thus assess what percentage of a major party's vote in a particular election was due to the net impact of the salient issues in the campaign, we can add or subtract the net gain or loss to the "basic vote" it could expect to receive in the absence

of net gains or losses from issues. This is about 41 per cent of voters for both Labour and Conservative over the post-war elections.

There seems no reason to doubt that relationships which have held throughout the post-war period will also hold for the next election. If we can correctly anticipate the issues that will be central in a February election, we can on the basis of our previous work sum up the net gains or losses of voters which will accrue to the major parties. Knowing also that their "basic vote" is 41 per cent we can add such gains or losses to this to get an estimate of the February votes in advance.

The details of this exercise are shown in the table. First come the issues which are likely to affect voters most crucially in a February election. Hardly anyone would deny that the Government will be held accountable for the effects of the economic crisis of the last three years: these constitute the negative aspects of the Government record which large impact (3 per cent net from Labour) is partly counterbalanced by the 1 per cent

net gain associated with the new stability of the pound and an anticipated slowing down of the rate of inflation.

The increasing prominence of Mr Callaghan in his role as Prime Minister should exert a positive net pull to Labour which is unlikely to be matched for the Conservatives by Mrs Thatcher. Inevitably, however, strikes and industrial unrest will alienate limited numbers from Labour.

The Conservatives should gain—again to a limited extent—from their persistent stress on removing the barriers to individual initiative. More voters will probably be attracted—after a renewed debate on devolution—to the party which stands clearly for the present constitution in the face of Labour's more ambiguous position.

Political circumstances can always change rapidly. Law and order (favouring the Conservatives heavily) could emerge as a major theme if persistent and spectacular demonstrations strike along with disorderly strikes. In this sense our estimates for the election are like economic forecasting—valid only for the circumstances which could be taken into account when they were made. If we are correct in typing the important issues however, Labour would suffer a net loss of 1 per cent from its "basic vote" of 41 per cent, giving it a final figure of 40 per cent of votes cast; and the Conservatives would gain 3 per cent net over and above their basic vote of 41 per cent, giving them a final result of 44 per cent of votes cast.

This estimate allows for a Liberal vote of some 10 per cent. If against current expectations went up to 16.7 per cent, this would depress the Labour vote by about 2 per cent and the Conservative vote by about 1 per cent.

Our forecast agrees with the estimates of the party gap given in current polls, but cautions against anticipating that the real decline in Conservative support will continue. A continued decline in terms of voting intentions may certainly appear in polls over the next few months, but such intentions are recorded for many people who will not turn out to vote as well as for those who will. The impact of issues on differential turnout is on the other hand brought into account in our estimates.

The substantive implication of these is that Mr Callaghan's best policy is still to hold off the election for as long as possible. It is above all the association between austerity and the Government's term of office, which weighs Labour down. This is not simply through its direct effects but also by preventing a credible appeal in terms of enhanced social welfare and income redistribution.

Given a run of economic success, Labour's image on these matters could to some extent be refurbished by the autumn. It would be dangerous however to rely on six months' better times outweighing the previous record by February, as the election of 1970 demonstrated.

Whatever tactical gains are made by Mr Callaghan during the coming Parliamentary year, Mrs Thatcher still holds the dominant strategic position under currently foreseeable circumstances.

Ian Budge and
Dennis Fairlie

The authors' book *Voting and Party Competition* was published recently by John Wiley & Sons, £16.75. Ian Budge is Professor of Government at the University of Essex, and Dr Fairlie is with the university's Department of Mathematics.

Bernard Levin

This 15-second indictment of Soviet tyranny

I saw the BBC television programme *The Orlov Defence* at the weekend, and it was a most impressive and important programme. It was impressive because of the skill and effectiveness with which it had been made, by Roger Mills and Mark Anderson; impressive because as the heart of it there is an extraordinary new development in the struggle of the Soviet dissidents and the efforts being made outside to help them.

Professor Yuri Orlov is a Soviet physicist of distinction. He was the Chairman of the Soviet Committee for Monitoring the Helsinki Agreement, a group which, with epic heroism, did exactly what the title suggests: they collected evidence as to how the Soviet Union was keeping the parts of the Helsinki document relating to such matters as freedom of movement and the reunification of divided families. Obviously, the Soviet Union was not keeping these parts of the agreement, and had never had any intention of doing so; it needed no Orlov Group to demonstrate that. But the value of the committee was in the evidence it was able to collect, collating and disseminating the evidence; not even the *Chronicle of Current Events* did the work so systematically. The Orlov Group assembled details of 19 cases in which the Helsinki Agreement had been violated; they included instances previously unknown in the West as well as such familiar and sinister examples as that of Misha Volk-

henaki, the child trapped in the Soviet Union through his mother's first refusal to register, and then to tell the truth about the abuse of psychiatry for political ends in that country.

They knew, they must have known, how it would end. One after another the members of the group were arrested (it cannot be stressed too much or too often that they were doing nothing against Soviet law, let alone against what might be the law in a civilized country), and finally, in February this year, Professor Orlov was seized; he has been held incommunicado in prison ever since, and it may be worth adding that the prison in which he is held, the Lefortovo, is known to be one of the most brutal places of detention in the Soviet Union apart from the notorious camps and of course the political mental hospitals.

(Vladimir Bukovsky, who appeared on the programme, spent years in it, and there was one wonderfully vivid moment in his testimony, when he was trying to describe, in speaking of the starvation rations the prisoners receive, some revolting and disgusting gross thing they occasionally found in their watery soup. Someone, as he sought for the word, tried to help, by suggesting *brussels sprouts*, and Bukovsky shrieked with indignation. "No," he said, "brussels sprouts are delicious." The thought of a green vegetable being in brussels sprouts are delicious brought home to a striking and sinister example of the Soviet prison life for political inmates.)

Professor Orlov himself was the Soviet Union through his mother's first refusal to register, and then to tell the truth about the abuse of psychiatry for political ends in that country.

It is in the nature of the defence that there lies the extraordinary development in the dissident movement in the Soviet Union. When Professor Orlov was arrested, his wife managed to get through a telephone call to London, the KGB cut her off after only 15 seconds, but those 15 seconds were to have an effect far beyond their span and even their content. In that brief moment Mrs Orlov asked for her husband's defence to be undertaken by a British QC, Mr John Macdonald, and Mr Macdonald, who was the chief figure in the television programme, has been working on the case ever since. (Indeed, for some months, it seems, he was doing so virtually full-time, presumably to the peril of his practice and undoubtedly to that of his health.) Although funds have been collected for



Yuri Orlov: a brutal place of detention.

the defence, his normal fee can certainly not be used out of them.

Thus retained, Mr Macdonald went about preparing the case as he would with any other case. He was ready to take evidence from the 17 Soviet witnesses who were ready to testify there for the defence, and whose names and addresses were sent from London to the legal authorities in charge of the Orlov case. But there seems no way now in which they can break their law, trying to break their law without breaking it publicly, in a way which will make it clear even to the most slavish followers of detente among Western governments

that the Helsinki Agreement is not being kept.

The comprehensive way in which Mr Macdonald and his team have gone about their work was well demonstrated by a recent conference they held, at which a number of dissidents now in the West summarized the evidence to be used by the defence. It was certainly the highest quality gathering assembled; the very names were a recitation of the Roll of Honour: Bukovsky, Plyuschny, Volkovskaya, Gorbunovskaya, Levin-Krasnov, Alexeyeva, Anisimov. One by one, they spoke of their experience of Soviet repression, as Mr Macdonald, displaying that characteristic detachment that characterizes the English lawyer at his best, marshalled his witnesses and led their evidence.

Such a display in a Soviet courtroom would, of course, have the effect of a psychological B-bomb; such a display will, of course, not be permitted in a Soviet courtroom, and the 17 courageous witnesses who are standing by in the Soviet Union to give just such evidence on their own account will not be allowed to do so. So much Mr Macdonald, and they, the witnesses in London, naturally expected. But that is less important than the fact that the Orlov Defence is now likely to be a landmark case, marking the end of a run of most formidable indictments of Soviet tyranny mounted since the modern dissident movement began. Mrs Orlov's 15-second telephone call was certainly worth what it cost.

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The battle of the truth about Arnhem

Tinkering with the truth, no matter how skillfully you do it, is a risky business and Sir Richard Attenborough's new lesson from his film about the battle of Arnhem, *A Bridge Too Far*, opened a few months ago.

Write Army brassards and medical experts wrote letters to *The Times* alleging distortions and downright lies, all of which left Sir Richard with another battle on his hands.

He tackled the hostile forces in a characteristically disarming way, I thought, by insisting that the intentions of all those involved in the making of the film were honourable. Whereupon, the assaults ceased. The public is proving less analytical by registering its approbation at the box office.

By all accounts, one of the most valid criticisms made against the film is that it underestimated, or even completely ignored, the contribution made by the Royal Army Medical Corps during the heroic events at Arnhem. Colonel Graeme Warneck was assistant director of medical services with the 1st Airborne Division, and his letter to *The Times* was both a spirited and moving attempt to give his men some of the credit the film denied them. He maintained that, far from being the film as the film suggested, the RAMC was there right through to the bitter end.



There was, I am now reminded, a modest omission from his letter. He made no mention of his own remarkable story of how he stayed behind at Arnhem to look after the seriously wounded and then, with the help of the Dutch Resistance, escaped through occupied Holland in a more journey that lasted four months.

A year ago, the BBC televised a dramatized reconstruction of his exploits in a film called *Arnhem: The Story of an Escape*. Tonight, the film will be shown again. It will be instructive to compare it with *A Bridge Too Far*.

THE TIMES DIARY/ PHS

Test of taste at the V & A

The trouble is, I have never been able to say "when", whether it be a second helping of Sevruga or just another wee drop of the hard stuff. So I am delighted to be able to commend to you the new menu mounted by the Crafts Advisory Committee which opens today at the V & A (from 12.30 to 1.30 until February 12, admission 50p).

Say "When" for that is the title of the exhibition, which will appeal to young people of all ages. It turns exhibitionism into a game where craft and art are juxtaposed with industrial design in a grouping of objects which form questions and invite reactions from the viewer.

It is all about pouring vessels (through the ages)—artifacts

Exciting issue, not a Boer

Although the South African Government may be politically beleaguered, its Historical Mint in Cape Town has responded to adversity with a flourish. As Ben Ritchie took me to see the exhibition, the Mint has issued a medalion collection to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Vereeniging at the end of the Boer War.

No fewer than 12 generals (admittedly both Boer and British) are depicted on the 40g sterling silver medals which are being released at monthly intervals. The premier set, from a limited edition of 5,000, was presented to the Afrikaans Museum in Johannesburg.

The first medal carried (naturally) the bust of General Smuts and a later one will carry the head of Lord Baden-Powell, whose use of schoolboys as messengers led to the formation of the Boy Scout movement. The Mint has researched a biographical history to accompany the medalions.

I have it, on the highest authority, that there is a public relations man in Britain called Michael Duncombe.

Shadow play

Although Emilio Colombo, the President of the European Parliament, has publicized his visit to London this Friday as his "day for meeting top people," it seems that he will be received by none of the top three politicians.

Signor Colombo had hopes of talking to Messrs Callaghan and Steel and to Mrs Thatcher. But the Prime Minister's office told me that Mr Callaghan has no plans to meet the European Commission. Mr Steel is out of town and the Liberals think that Signor Colombo might like to chat to Jeremy Thorpe instead. Mrs Thatcher cannot break a prior engagement and has asked John Davies, the shadow Foreign Secretary, to deputize for her.

Quoth the raven

I am becoming overwhelmed with reminiscences about announcements over public address systems. I especially like this one from Pamela Bradley-Smith, of Northampton. She tells me she was staying in a hotel called the Raven when a croaking voice over the P.A. system said: "Will Mr Duncan come to the telephone please."

"Being a lifelong student of the Bard and almost knowing Macbeth backwards," she says, "I told my companion: 'What a Raven himself is hoarse that speaks the fatal entrance of Duncan under my battlements.'"

Mrs Bradley-Smith adds, with some justification, "It was my finest hour."

Outnumbered

Today's edition of *The Times* is number 60,162, a fact that spells gloom for Mr I. C. Joyce, of Hinchin, Hertfordshire, who marks the end of a run of editions to which he has been able to give a name.

Mr Joyce is a train enthusiast. His sequence began with edition 60,001 which he named Sir Ronald Macdonald after the name and number.

The sequence ran unbroken through the ranks of A4, A3 and A1 Pacifics up to locomotive number 60,162, "Saint Johnstone"—the name Mr Joyce has given to today's issue of *The Times*.

He regrets that BR cannot mark the appearance of 60,163 by introducing high speed trains "along the old domain of those fine locomotives, the Fast Coast between King's Cross and Edinburgh". Another instance of BR not being able to keep up with *The Times*.

The Langton Gallery has had some delightful ideas over the years, but none more amusing than the elaborate private view (in a page-pull from the book) they have just sent out for the exhibition "A Baccarat", the verses of Christopher Logue, which is to be published this week by Jonathan Cape. The exhibition will run from Thursday to November 23. When it closes, the Langton will offer the eighth of their Great British Cartoon Shows with a selection of artists from Rowlands to Scarfe. It will last until Christmas.



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PRESIDENT SADAT'S INITIATIVE

Once again President Sadat, after a period when his policies appeared to have been bogged down in a complete stalemate, has seized the initiative with a spectacular gesture, which has taken even his own advisers and subordinates by surprise. His instinct, when he made his dramatic announcement last week that he was prepared to go "even to the Knesset" to talk peace with Israel, was to explain this as an essentially rhetorical statement, a way of emphasizing the point that Egypt did not intend to let procedural obstacles impede substantive negotiations in the Geneva conference, and to add that of course the President could not actually go to Israel unless the Israelis first accepted this or that condition.

It seems they were wrong, for on Monday night Mr Sadat said he was prepared to go to Israel without any preconditions, with a weak of receiving a formal invitation, and Mr Begin immediately responded that a formal invitation would be dispatched through American diplomatic channels without delay. It is significant that this exchange was conducted on American television. The dominant consideration in both sides' diplomacy is the need to make a good impression in the United States, and especially to avoid being blamed by the United States for any breakdown in the peace-making process. American insistence on the need for a peaceful settlement thus has the beneficial effect of obliging the two sides to compete in proving the sincerity of their desire for peace. Mr Carter can therefore legitimately claim the breakthrough in Egyptian-Israeli relations as a success for his foreign policy, at a moment when his administration badly needs a success to reestablish its authority.

There should be no doubt that in behaving in this way President Sadat is showing considerable moral courage. The danger is not so much that he might be assassinated by a Palestinian fanatic or overthrown by an Egyptian coup. Those dangers exist already, and if there were a coup it would be more likely to arise from Egypt's internal problems than from any move directly connected with the Arab-Israeli

conflict. From that point of view the most dangerous position is one of inertia, and that is clearly what Mr Sadat is determined at all costs to avoid.

In 1973 he escaped from inertia by military action, running the risk of a total and humiliating military defeat. Now he is trying to escape from inertia by a spectacular diplomatic offensive, and again he runs the risk of grave humiliation if it brings no results. No official Arab voice has been raised as yet to condemn his offer to go to Israel—and again it is significant and encouraging that no Arab state wishes to take public responsibility for sabotaging the initiative. But there can be no doubt that the Arab "out reaction" is one of scepticism and anxiety, if not contempt.

Many Arabs will have been displeased that the Egyptian President should have offered to go and talk peace in Israel on the very day Israeli planes destroyed a Lebanese village and killed over a hundred people, almost all of them civilians. Others will be afraid that this will be taken by Israel as a sign of weakness, and that it will signify Israel's determination to make no concessions by convincing her that Egypt's desire for peace is so strong that she will sooner or later have to accept Israeli terms, even if it means breaking solidarity with the other Arab countries.

This undoubtedly is what many Israelis want to believe, and Mr Sadat is taking the risk of encouraging them in that belief. However, it is good that at least one Arab leader has the courage to take that risk, because it is difficult to see who gains from the alternative, which is to let the present deadlock continue.

Israeli wishful thinking about Egypt is closely paralleled by Syrian fearful thinking, and the Israelis' dream of a separate peace with Egypt is the Syrians' nightmare. Today Mr Sadat goes to Damascus to try to convince President Assad that the night-mare has no substance, and no doubt when he addresses the Knesset he will do his best also to dissipate the Israeli dream. A great part of his speech will certainly be devoted to the grievances and rights of the Palestinians, and to the necessity

for Israel to have the moral courage to set aside preconditions and talk directly to the Palestinian leaders, just as he has had the moral courage to set aside preconditions and talk directly to Israel.

Both Israelis and Syrians will be inclined to dismiss these remarks as a rhetorical smoke-screen behind which a separate peace is being prepared. Yet this is surely to misunderstand the thrust of President Sadat's policies. He has not since 1973 been separating Egypt from the rest of the Arab world. What he has done is to move closer, within the Arab world, to the conservative and wealthy Arab states, especially Saudi Arabia—and to enlist their influence, as well as that of the United States, in favour of a moderate policy for the Arab world as a whole, including the Palestine Liberation Organization. Today Egypt is financially and politically dependent not only on the United States but on Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf States, and in pursuing a peaceful settlement with Israel President Sadat has made great efforts to carry Syria and the PLO along in his wake, precisely in order to avoid having to break these Arab ties.

And he has been by no means unsuccessful. Both Syria and the PLO have dragged their feet but, in the last resort, rather than be left out in the cold, they have gradually moderated their positions. Syria has accepted the idea of a peace treaty if Israel withdraws to the pre-1967 borders. The PLO has accepted the idea of an independent state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and now accepts the idea of Palestinian representatives negotiating with Israel at Geneva as part of a single Arab delegation, without a specific PLO label, on the basis of the American-Soviet joint statement issued last month. No doubt if the Geneva conference fails one option Egypt would examine is to try to recover the purely Egyptian occupied territory in return for a non-belligerency agreement. But would Israel give up Sharm al-Sheikh and the Rafah approaches for less than full peace? And can she seriously expect Egypt to conclude the kind of full peace she wants unless the other Arab parties are involved as well?

THE ENTREPRENEURS AND MANAGERS SPEAK OUT

The first national conference of the Confederation of British Industry, which ended yesterday at Brighton fully serving its main purpose in giving Britain's employers a platform from which they could express their views in the full glare of publicity. It has until now always been a problem for the CBI and its members that its annual calendar provided no such occasion. Unlike trades unionists and politicians, employers have in the past tended to be over-represented in stating their views in public. Brighton has changed that at least.

What was said at the conference was, therefore, in one sense less important than the fact that entrepreneurs and managers have at last decided that they have a voice and that it should be heard. In the past the fact that the CBI has an extremely wide constituency has resulted in its utterances on economic and industrial issues of the day tending to be muted, or the result of compromise. The delegates at the conference allowed a fuller range of points

of view to be expressed more freely. The way in which management put its views will have gone some way to showing in public that there is another side to the industrial question.

But the CBI's conference was not simply an exercise in public relations. It was also a further step towards making the confederation itself more open to its members. A frequently-heard criticism from businessmen in the past has been that the confederation was run by a small circle of top industrialists, who too often did not heed the views of the grass roots. Lord Wadsworth and Mr Methven have tried to introduce much greater membership participation in the work of the CBI. Last year they published a discussion document *The Road to Recovery* which was extensively debated in London and the regions and led to the drafting of *Programme for Action 77*, a policy statement which set out the CBI's goals for the year ahead. This year the confederation has taken the process a step further by putting its discussion document *Britain Means Business 1977* before a

national conference and asking it to adopt the ideas in it as CBI policy for the year ahead.

It has been a salutary experience. While most of the document was endorsed, at least one important section—the reform of pay bargaining—came in for violent criticism for being too corporatist. It will now have to be examined again by the confederation's grand council. This will not kill the proposed move towards a fundamental reform of the pay bargaining system. On the contrary, it will ensure that when the CBI leadership approaches the Government and the TUC with its ideas on the subject it will be able to do so in the knowledge that it has the fullest possible backing of its members.

The CBI took a risk in mounting a national conference. If it had not been a success, it could have badly damaged the confederation's image among the public. But the conference has in the event been manifestly successful. The CBI should now certainly make this an annual event.

Criminal legal aid

From Mr Hugh Montgomery Campbell.
Sir, On November 1 you gave a report of the oral evidence given by the Lord Chief Justice to the Royal Commission on Legal Services. I refer in particular to Lord Widgery's view, in the context of criminal cases taking too long, that there is no proper financial control of criminal legal aid.

The Law Society wholeheartedly agrees with this view. In civil legal aid there has been built up over a period exceeding 25 years a sophisticated system of control, financial and otherwise, administered by The Law Society under the guidance of the Lord Chancellor. In criminal legal aid, the only control is that exercised by the court. This has proved ineffective in practice which is wrong in principle. The court's control must always be limited because it is fundamental that the prosecution must prove its case and the accused cannot be compelled to disclose his case.

The great majority of criminal cases in the crown courts are conducted on legal aid. The legal aid system each case has to be vetted by a committee of lawyers before legal aid is granted. There should be a similar system in criminal legal aid administered by The Law Society. This would have two great advantages. Firstly, The Legal Aid Committee would be completely independent of the court and, secondly, before public money is spent on his defence, the accused would be required to put his case in detail to a committee. In the civil system, the control does not end with the grant of the legal aid certificate. So the criminal administration would exercise much greater control than there is at present over such things as the extent of work to be done under legal aid and change of solicitors.

There is much public concern at the present time at the length and expense of criminal trials. The adoption of a system similar to that used in civil cases would not solve all the problems. That it would substantially improve the situation I have no doubt.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MONTGOMERY CAMPBELL,
Chairman, Legal Aid Committee,
The Law Society's Hall,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2,
November 7.

Academic posts

From Professor David Lowenthal.
Sir, The scarcity of new academic posts (*The Times*, October 18) is only one of several problems exacerbated by Government policy and by Treasury control of the universities. Enforced parsimony and an obsession with security are stifling British academic life. Except at the very top, hardly any ever moves from one university to another. Once appointed, lecturers tend to remain for life. Except at the very bottom, no one comes in. British universities today are dying not just from lack of funds but from want of enterprise.

How has this come about? Because salaries are age-related and funds are scarce, universities employ only the youngest applicants for lectureships. Anyone over 28 is generally viewed as too expensive. Students who interrupt their academic careers with a few years' outside work, travel or other experience thereby miss their chance. Only those who move directly from undergraduate postgraduate to aspiring candidature stand much hope of being taken on. And academic tradition virtually guarantees that anyone employed will be confirmed in his

post, however little he or she subsequently contributes.

Thus the system of formal contact with the world outside, the universities become ever more ingrown. Those who are adventurous and inquiring are less likely to go into the universities in the first place. Once in academia, only the creative and the energetic risk moving out—away from the universities or across the ocean—when they find no position matching their talents. The ambitious, the creative and ultimately dominating many academic departments. Those who are not withdrawn or indifferent to begin with are apt to vegetate for want of stimulus and challenge.

What is to be done? Leave the universities free to negotiate their own funding and decide their own priorities. Arrange for a proportion of staff each year to interchange academic posts. Impose staff requirements for renewal after five or six years, allowing a significant proportion of posts to be taken by newcomers at all ranks and ages. Leave room for visiting staff from abroad, from the non-academic world, and from those who have retired but remain alert and ready to contribute. Base starting salaries solely on relevant experience and not on age as at present.

These measures alone will not ensure universities health while Government considers higher education an extravagance to be restricted to a tiny minority, and, as I noted earlier (*The Times*, August 25, 1975), ineptly and erodes lecturers' living standards. But with out some reform, British universities will decay into place-serving mediocrity, and taxpayers who complain they are wasting their money on tertiary education will be right.

Faithfully yours,
DAVID LOWENTHAL,
Department of Geography,
University College London,
Gower Street, WCL,
November 9.

Firemen's strike: problems for the Christian conscience

From the Archbishop of Westminster.

Sir, Most people are deeply disturbed by the industrial action taken this week by the Fire Brigades Union. The consequent danger to human life is an intolerable threat to the whole community, no matter which party to the dispute is held to be ultimately responsible for that threat. Christians believe that human life has an inestimable value and so are dismayed that the lives of innocent individuals are put at risk in what is seen as a struggle for economic benefits. This is a new situation. It poses acute moral problems for the Christian conscience. First and foremost, it is an unmistakable signal that our country must seek urgently new ways of settling industrial disputes and achieving social justice.

Those outside the national and local negotiations are unable to judge the issues of the present dispute accurately and fairly. Firemen seem to have genuine grievances, but at the same time the country as a whole is suffering from a genuine shortage of labour (not induced by restrictive practices) to discharge vital national services. A Church leader is not qualified to offer detailed remedies, but may I suggest two? First, a request either of which might help to improve the situation?

First, could not the firemen and their leaders reconsider their position? The consequences of their total withdrawal of labour? These consequences—in as much as they involve grave danger to human life—surely far outweigh the economic benefits to be gained from industrial action. Would it not be more humane for them immediately to substitute selective action, even if rigorously applied, while they seek to find a solution to the difficulties?

Secondly, some people have undoubtedly suffered economically because their social and professional conscience would not allow them to strike. The community should not allow those who have the lives and safety of others in their hands to be thus disadvantaged. Could not the Government moderate to hold an independent official enquiry early next week into the pay structures of the firemen and of other groups in a similar position? Such an enquiry could suggest their place in a national economy and its findings could become part of future economic policy for the government of the day.

We need a publicly known and agreed policy on differentials. This would reduce the contradictions of the present system, which involve special responsibilities for the safety and health of members of the public; jobs in which there is a danger to the lives and health of the community; and the acquisition of relevant skills requiring lengthy training. There may well be other factors which such calculations will be difficult to make, but so much at stake we cannot put off the enquiry any longer.

Yours faithfully,
RASHID HARRIS,
Archbishop of Westminster,
Westminster, SW1,
November 15.

From Mr Ralph Harris and Mr John B. Wood.

Sir, May we pose some questions to readers who are now tempted to take the consequences of the future on deferring the firemen?

Have politicians forgotten the eventual cost to themselves and us

of Mr Heath's economically misguided battle with the miners only to come back to us as "pariahs" for the Conservatives—and now the CBI—to encourage a Labour Government to repeat the same folly behind a rhetorical smoke-screen about "confounding" or "taking on" the firemen?

Is it high courage or procrastinating cowardice to allow the 10 per cent "guideline" to drift into a minimum-maximum that paralyses economic logic—and the labour market? What has become of the vaunted move from rigid incomes policy towards free collective bargaining? Yet how otherwise will differentials for skill and responsibility begin to be unfrozen?

Are we or are we not short of police and firemen—in many areas? If we are, could there be better economic logic for increasing their pay above the average—in those areas? Why are political "leaders" failing to teach the bemused public that the only economic/social/moral argument for higher wages is a genuine shortage of labour (not induced by restrictive practices) to discharge vital national services? At least the correction of every crippling distortion in our economy always be put off till another day?

A final question may expose the shallow and short-sighted expediency of politicians now brazenly backing to fickle and bewildered public. If untested social security benefits are increased by over 14 per cent when wages and salaries are held to 10 per cent (say 6 per cent net), who will MPs—? Public opinion polls—blame when shortages of highly skilled men in key jobs increasingly disrupt our national recovery, and when essential services are further?

Yours faithfully,
RALPH HARRIS, General Director,
JOHN B. WOOD, Deputy Director,
The Institute of Economic Affairs,
2 Lord North Street,
Westminster, SW1,
November 15.

From Mr J. A. Long.

Sir, "We are not asking for much—only what the National Average" says. But there must, by definition, be as much below an average as there is above, and there is a real danger in allowing everyone below an average to believe that he is therefore, in some way, deprived.

To be below a "Living Wage" is in itself a justification for a rise. To be below the National Average is not. Yours truly,
J. A. LONG,
The Bakery,
Vercombe,
Devon,
November 11.

Dealing with emergencies

From Mr Peter Mullenbax.
Sir, "The Government has a duty to prepare for the consequences of a strike." The Government and the local authorities and the community as a whole have a responsibility.... Thus spoke the Home Secretary in a Ministerial Broadcast on Sunday, November 13, 1977. It is only the consequences of a strike that government, local authorities and the community have a duty to prepare for but also the consequences of every sort of emergency, natural, medical, political, military or whatever renders our essential services overstrained or impotent in time of need.

Immigrants' difficulties

From Mr Mohammad Aslam.
Sir, Your letter from Mark Bonham Carter (November 2) and article by David Lane (November 4) on the subject of racial discrimination make some valuable points but miss some others. Although there is no doubt regarding the great efforts made by the Immigration for Racial Equality and the other bodies which preceded them these efforts are handicapped by the Government's discriminatory legislation against immigrants from Asia and the West Indies. Pressure from right wing groups such as the National Front may be partly instrumental in creating a situation where members of families of many immigrants are separated and every obstacle is put in the way of them coming together.

The 1971 Immigration Act, with its patrias and non-patrias, created a class of second-class citizens in the form of Afro-Asians. Although the new bill allows for the entry of dependants of people already settled here, in practice it is very difficult to get permission for them to come. Now it is proposed to abolish the child allowance for those children who have not been united with their families in this country. Their parents will not be eligible for the child allowance which will replace the child allowance so they are discriminated against in that they will be worse off than other taxpayers.

The excuse given for not continuing with the allowance is the extra staff costs its retention would involve. The Inland Revenue, although no evidence has been produced to show how the increase would arise. It is difficult

The Arnolfini marriage?

From Mr Leonard Allen.

Sir, Mr Paul Overy in his recent interesting article (November 8) focused on the Jan van Eyck painting "The Marriage of Arnolfini" throws doubt upon whether it was their marriage, gives reasons for thinking the wife was pregnant, and that this was the reason for the "The Arnolfini" was a previous interpretation which seems more logical. From what I have read over the years about this fascinating painting and painter and the time he lived in, Flanders customs did not extend to formal marriage ceremonies, in fact it could be verbal without witnesses and quite legal.

What better way to prove the marriage than with a painting like this one, dated and with all the symbols. Arnolfini is raising his right hand making the solemn

marriage vow, she holding his hand in agreement.

The small dog signifies faithfulness which is appropriate to a marriage vow that to pregnancy celebration. St Margaret, carved on the chair, would represent the patroness of married women to support the bride; the painter and his assistant (?), reflected in the convex mirror, would appear as appropriate witnesses as once there "1434, rather than "Jan van Eyck made me" as in previous paintings.

The house voluminous dress worn was very much the fashion of the day. St Catherine and again St Mary Magdalene were depicted in paintings in similar fashions. Surely they were not pregnant?

Yours,
LEONARD ALLEN,
20 Norfolk Road,
Brighton,
Sussex.

From Mr W. Mellor.

Sir, I see that householders are advised to keep buckets of water handy during the firemen's strike.

May I suggest that a bag or bucket of sand would be far more sensible? Unlike water, sand can be safely used on any kind of fire; and if one suddenly discovers part of one's home in flames, it may not be immediately obvious whether the cause is electrical or not. Sand appears to be used by gardeners for some purpose or other, and can readily be obtained from hardware shops at a price which is no more shocking than most prices nowadays.

Yours faithfully,
W. W. MELLOR,
14 Brooklands Crescent,
Sheffield,
November 13.

A permanent wages policy

From Mr R. S. Dale.
Sir, Professor Jacques (November 11) asks why there is a conspiracy of silence on the most important political and economic issue of our time—the record and use of a statutory arrangement to deal with wage differentials. The answer is simple: both major political parties are, for their own reasons, totally committed to the principle of free enterprise. To concede the necessity for centralised determination of incomes is, after all, to recommend the abolition, at one and the same time, of trade unionism and capitalism.

Let us therefore not expect a lead from the politicians in this matter, but continue the debate in the hope that the old political allegiances will in due course be replaced by a common recognition of what is required.

Yours sincerely,
R. S. DALE,
The Old House,
Blanchard,
Kent,
November 11.

Dismissing a government

From Mr D. W. Rawson.
Sir, Your otherwise balanced leading article of November 7 might lead readers to think that the Australian Labor Government of Sir Whitlam was dismissed by the Governor General because it had "mismanaged affairs". Even Sir John Kerr's many enemies have not accused it of behaving in so arbitrary and unconstitutional a fashion as that.

The Government was dismissed, rightly or wrongly, because it was unwilling to give way in order to resolve a financial deadlock between the two Houses of Parliament. "Mismanagement" is not, I trust, a conceivable ground for the dismissal of a government; few would last long if it were.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. RAWSON,
Senior Fellow in Political Science,
Australian National University,
43 Lensfield Road,
Cambridge.

Luton Hoo ivories

From Mr Nigel Thomas.

Sir, The decision to remove several medieval ivories, recently acquired by the nation in lieu of tax on the death of the late Sir Harold Wernher, from their setting as part of the magnificent Luton Hoo collection is one which illustrates once again (if this need be done) the destructive and unfortunate effect of heavy capital taxation. It was claimed for Capital Transfer Tax by several Ministers and others that a beneficial side effect of the tax would be to facilitate public enjoyment of private and hitherto unseen art collections.

The Luton Hoo decision, however, shows how this crippling tax does nothing whatever for the public enjoyment of a private art collection. "First" because the Wernher collection is representative of this tax, easily viewed by members of the public and indeed Sir Harold and Lady Wernher had gone to great lengths to display the house and its art collection to the public advantage and, secondly, the Treasury by removing these ivories and scattering them among several anonymous museums and public collections does reduce the interest and completeness of the collection which remains at Luton Hoo and deprives the ivories of much of their significance by taking them out of their context within a great art collection amassed by a single family and housed in this beautiful Adam mansion.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL THOMAS,
11 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Mapping buried history

From Professor A. L. P. Rivett.

Sir, Most of the points in the letter of the Director General of the Ordnance Survey (November 11) have been dealt with in your leading article and in Professor Rivett's letter of November 12, but one sentence in it demands further attention: "Since the OS does not employ professionally qualified field archaeologists we hope that our adoption of these measures will... further improve the reliability of archaeological classification."

In the first place, ever since the appointment of O. G. S. Crawford in 1920 the OS has employed a professional Archaeology Officer, and for much of that time an Assistant Archaeology Officer too. Are these posts now to be quietly extinguished?

But secondly, there is no generally recognized "professional" qualification in field archaeology. In the sense of identifying, defining, classifying and surveying field antiquities—indeed for the past two years a Council for British Archaeology committee, of which I am the chairman, has been trying to devise a "professional" par excellence. This is widely recognized by archaeologists, and it is shocking that the Director General should imply the contrary. I hope that everyone who reads his letter read also the tribute to them from the Royal Commission, quoted by PHS on the facing page.

Our task is exceptionally difficult, because proficiency in it depends partly on natural aptitude (not everyone can see a ploughed-down barrow or field system) and partly on training, but most of all on experience. Several of the OS's archaeological field surveyors, with many years of experience behind them, are among the best practitioners in the country. In fact, they are the "professional" par excellence. This is widely recognized by archaeologists, and it is shocking that the Director General should imply the contrary. I hope that everyone who reads his letter read also the tribute to them from the Royal Commission, quoted by PHS on the facing page.

Yours faithfully,
A. L. P. RIVETT,
Professor of Roman Provincial Studies,
University of Keele,
Staffordshire.

From Dr D. W. Rhind.

Sir, Most of us readily accept that a knowledge of pre-history and history is a vital backdrop for any nation. But the primary business of the Ordnance Survey is—and always has been—to record and map the geography of this country. Physical manifestations of our history constitute just one aspect of this geography, albeit a fascinating one. The numerous letters you have published from antiquaries, historians and archaeologists, together with your leader of November 12, may well result in the retention of those OS staff who are making an inventory of archaeological monuments. I suggest, however, that anything more than a temporary reprieve for this group would be premature, given the fundamental review of Survey objectives announced last May by the Secretary of State for the Environment. There are many other tasks of immediate practical utility which might usefully be assigned to OS, including the recording of land use and service networks. I hope these archaeological inventory and a number of other possibilities will be investigated in this review.

Finally, in setting out a new future for OS I am sure that the relevance of the increasing use of remote sensing from aircraft or satellites in certain types of survey will be understood. These methods contrast with the on-site investigation characteristic of much detailed archaeological work. Given such substantial differences in methods of work, a logical solution might be for the archaeologists to be allocated elsewhere in the Department of the Environment. Yours faithfully,
DAVID RHIND,
Department of Geography,
University of Durham.

Sculptured elms

From the Reverend R. K. Robinson.

Sir, On a recent holiday in the Soviet Union, I spent some time in Armenia. A lovely tree-lined main street of Echmiadzin, adjacent to the cathedral and Palace of the Catholics, are to be observed about half a dozen dead tree trunks sculptured in the fashion of the public by your correspondents. They make an attractive addition to the visual delights of the city, and are fine works in themselves, depicting, as they do, such subjects as a family of men, a woman, folk heroes and characters from Holy Scripture.

Such a custom imported into England and copied from our Armenian friends in the Soviet Union would enhance the beauty of our towns and countryside, encourage artists, and answer the problem of what to do with some of our dead trees.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND R. ROBINSON,
Holy Redeemer Clergy House,
24 Exmouth Market,
Clerkenwell, EC1.

Anthropophagous mice

From Sir Kenneth Berrill and others.

Sir, We were distressed to learn of John Wilton's disturbed night in his Jeddah Embassy flat (letter, November 11). It was perhaps remiss of us not to state explicitly that the keeping of cats in Ambassadors' residences is highly desirable not only to keep down mice but also to reflect a British way of life. The unaccountable entertainment allowance known as Indirect Representational Supplement could perhaps be deemed to cover the expenditure. There may be one problem however. Visiting embassies we could not fail to notice the high propensity of Ambassadors' keep dogs, usually very large or very small, rarely medium sized. Perhaps this explains John Wilton's problems.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH BERRILL,
TESSA BLACKSTONE,
KATHARINE MORTIMER,
Cabinet Office,
Central Policy Review Staff,
70 Whitehall, SW1.

Law Report November 15 1977

Court of Appeal

Court of Appeal

Contract the key to constructive dismissal

Western Excavating (ECC) Ltd v Sharp
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Eveleigh

[Judgments delivered Nov. 14]
Whether an employee has been constructively dismissed pursuant to paragraph 5(2) of Schedule 1 to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, should be determined according to contractual principles and not by applying a test of unreasonable conduct by the employer.

The Court of Appeal so ruled in allowing an appeal by employers, Western Excavating (ECC) Ltd, from the dismissal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Kilner Brown, Mr S. C. Marley and Mr J. G. C. Milligan) of their appeal from the majority decision of an industrial tribunal at St Austell, Cornwall, awarding Mr Colin John Sharp, of Fraddon, St Columb, £538 compensation for unfair dismissal.

Paragraph 5(2) provides: "(2) ... an employee shall be treated for the purposes of this Act as dismissed by his employer, if, but only if—
(a) the employee terminates his contract of employment, with or without notice, in circumstances such that he is entitled to terminate it without notice by reason of the employer's conduct."

Mr Andrew Smith for the employers, Mr Francis Gilbert for Mr Sharp.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that if Mr Sharp worked off in New. One day in February, 1976, he asked for three hours off to play cards for a team. Though he was told that he could not

have the time off that afternoon as there was too much work, he went to play cards. The next day he was dismissed. The disciplinary panel set up by the employers substituted five days' suspension without pay for the dismissal.

That left Mr Sharp in financial difficulties, and he asked the employers for an advance on his accrued holiday pay. His request was refused, as was a request for a loan of £40. He then left his employment in order to obtain his holiday pay, and brought a claim for unfair dismissal.

The doctrine of constructive dismissal, contained in paragraph 5(2)(c), had given rise to a diversity of views. In *Witherall (Bond St. W) Ltd v Lunn* (The Times, August 3) the Employment Appeal Tribunal attempted to settle the differences, but they were unsettled again by the discovery of obiter dicta in the Court of Appeal judgments in *Turner v London Transport Executive* (unreported, May 6, 1977).

The Employment Appeal Tribunal thought they ought to follow those dicta and they gave guidance expressed as an interim measure pending an authoritative statement of the law by the Court of Appeal or Court of Session. In *Scott v Auld* (The Times, October 5).

The rival tests were the contract test and the reasonableness test. Under the former if the employer was guilty of conduct which was so unreasonable as to amount to a repudiation of the contract, then the employee

was entitled to treat himself as discharged from any further performance; and, if he did so, the employee was constructively dismissed.

Under the reasonableness test if the employer conducted himself or his affairs so unreasonably that the employee could not fairly be expected to put up with it any longer, the employee was justified in leaving.

In his Lordship's opinion, the contract test was the right test for the following reasons. (1) The statute itself drew a distinction between "dismissal" in paragraph 5(2) and "unfairness" in paragraph 5(3). (2) Interpretation of dismissal in paragraph 5(2), which went back to 1965, should not be influenced by paragraph 5(3). (3) Paragraph 5(2)(c) used words which had a legal connotation. (4) The new test of "unreasonable conduct" was too indefinite for the law. It had led to findings of constructive dismissal on the most whimsical grounds.

The contract test was more certain and could well be understood by the layman under the guidance of a legal chairman. (5) Parliament could well have used other words, if the test of reasonableness gave no effect to the words "without notice".

The case was an illustration of a "whimsical decision". If the contract test had been applied the result would have been plain. There was no dismissal, constructive or otherwise, by the employers. The appeal should be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the language of paragraph 5(2)(c) was the language of contract: language which had a significant meaning in law in that it

conferred a right on an employee to be released from his contract and extinguished the right of the employer to hold the employee to it. Contracts could only be brought to an end in ways known to the law.

For the purpose of the present judgment it was neither necessary nor advisable to express any opinion as to what principles of law operated to bring a contract of employment to an end by reason of an employer's conduct. Sensible persons had no difficulty in recognizing such conduct. Persistent and unwarranted advances by an employer to a female member of his staff would, for example, clearly be such conduct.

It was required for the application of paragraph 5(2)(c) that there was a repudiation of the contract. That it did not get from the industrial tribunal in the present case, Mr Sharp had not suggested, nor could he have suggested, that the employers had been in breach of their contract.

To suggest, as the majority of the industrial tribunal did, that the employers "should have leant over backwards to ensure that the same result as the dismissed employee was not achieved through administrative blockage or any over-rigid adherence to criteria or procedures designed for this abnormal situation" was to cut adrift from common sense and reason.

LORD JUSTICE EVELEIGH agreed. The appeal was allowed. Leave to appeal was refused.

Solicitors: Stoddart & Limbrey for Western Excavating, St Austell; Rooks, Rider & Co for Sharp, St Austell.

Dismissal for want of prosecution: effect of new Act

Biss v Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority (Teaching)
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane and Lord Justice Eveleigh

The Court of Appeal, in dismissing for want of prosecution an action sought to be brought by a woman for alleged negligence by hospital nursing staff over 12 years ago, decided that they could do so consistently with the House of Lords decision on the subject, *White & Carter (Councils) Ltd v McGregor* (1962).

Because the House was not dealing with cases brought under the Limitation Acts, 1963 and 1975, which enable persons who satisfy specific conditions to issue writs in respect of personal injuries outside the normal three-year period under the Limitation Act, 1939. Their Lordships held that the plaintiffs' delay of nine months after she had issued her writ was sufficiently prejudicial to the defendant hospital to entitle the court in its discretion to dismiss her action for want of prosecution.

Their Lordships, it reserved judgment, allowed an interlocutory appeal by Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority (Teaching) (formerly Lambeth Group Hospital Management Committee) from Judge Sir Norman Richards, QC, sitting as a High Court deputy judge, who allowed an appeal by Mrs Elizabeth Grace Biss, of Wood Vale, Forest Hill, London, from an order of Master Waldman dismissing her action for damages for alleged negligence against the hospital authority for want of prosecution.

Mr Nicholas Merriman for the hospital authority; Mr Jeremy Roberts for Mrs Biss.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in 1963 Mrs Biss was taken to Lewisham Hospital with multiple sclerosis. She lay paralysed on her back and developed bed sores. In 1966 she was transferred to Stoke Mandeville; the sores were healed; and she was able to walk with sticks.

While there she began to complain about negligent treatment by the Lewisham nursing staff. Solicitors wrote to the hospital board in 1966. Its solicitors replied, denying her charges and stating the measures taken to prevent and cure the bed sores and that she had been uncooperative in the treatment advised. She obtained legal aid and counsel's opinions that the hospital had not been negligent. Her legal aid certificate was discharged. She approached her MP, local councillor and newspapers; none took up her case.

In 1970 Mrs Biss joined the Multiple Sclerosis Society, who took up her case; and with a medical report from Stoke Mandeville she got legal aid in July, 1973. She applied ex parte for leave under the Limitation Act, 1963, to bring an action against the hospital—10 years after leaving it. The judge refused her application, but in February 1975, the Court of Appeal (the Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice Stephenson), basing itself on the current interpretation of the Statute of Limitations, dismissed her application. That, his Lordship now thought, was a mistake.

Mrs Biss's then advisers issued a writ claiming damages against the hospital for negligence "between April, 1965, and January, 1966". The hospital denied negligence and relied on the Limitation Act, 1939. The plaintiff's reply was that the material facts were

not within her knowledge until a year earlier than the writ so that she was not barred.

In December, 1975, the hospital gave particulars of its defence and served on Mrs Biss a request for further and better particulars. She did not comply with it; her then solicitors did nothing. Nine months passed. New solicitors were engaged. The legal aid certificate required them to get a further opinion of counsel before serving down the case for trial, and for that purpose her solicitors wanted a further opinion from the Stoke Mandeville doctor. The doctor wanted to see Mrs Biss again at Stoke Mandeville, but on two or three occasions she said she could not undertake the journey.

In spite of a warning from the hospital's solicitors that if progress was not made fairly soon they would apply to dismiss the case for want of prosecution, nothing was done about getting the further medical opinion. So in March, 1977, the hospital issued a summary judgment under the Limitation Act, 1939, dismissing the action; but the judge held that it was to proceed.

On the appeal the argument had turned on *Birkett v James* (1977) 2 WLR 523. Mr Roberts said that as a result of that decision the crucial date was the latest issue of the writ, namely, 1975. The crucial delay—the nine months from December, 1975, to September, 1976—though the plaintiff's advisers had not applied for an extension of time, did not add any extra prejudice to the defendants, and therefore the action should not be dismissed.

Before *Birkett v James* there were two rival approaches to cases about dismissal for want of prosecution, one based on the Limitation Act, 1939, and the other on the delay since the issue of the writ. The House had declared the latter to be the right approach. But in *Birkett v James*, it said, had a legal right to delay issuing his writ for the full period permitted by the Statute of Limitations for six years in the case of breach of contract and three years in personal injuries cases; and after issuing it, he had a further year under the Rules of Court for serving it. No delay in issuing or serving his writ during that period, no matter how inordinate and inexcusable and prejudicial it might have been, could of itself be a ground for dismissing his action. The delay had not been prejudicial to the defendant since the writ was issued.

But after 10 years the plaintiff issued a writ with the leave of the court. By that time great prejudice had been done to the defendant. The plaintiff's delay had left the hospital; their notes had been destroyed; their memories must have faded time—or at any rate an extra nine months would make them no worse. So there was no additional prejudice to the defendant since the issue of the writ.

His Lordship was sure that the House could never have envisaged such cases as these. If the approach established in *Birkett v James* were carried to its logical conclusion, it would mean that in the many cases where the plaintiff took advantage of the full period of limitation—so that the defendant was hopelessly prejudiced before the writ was issued—the plaintiff could delay afterwards to an inordinate and inexcusable extent—with impunity.

In those circumstances the court must seek a solution so far as it could consistently with what the House had said. The one

solution his Lordship could see was that the prejudice to a defendant by delay was not confined to the loss of documents or memories or the loss or destruction of records. There was much prejudice to a defendant in having an action brought over his head like the sword of Damocles, not knowing when it was going to be brought to trial. There came a time when a hospital was entitled to have some peace of mind and to regard an incident as closed. It was a real prejudice to have an action hanging over its head when the plaintiff was guilty of inordinate and inexcusable delay after the issue of the writ; and the delay could properly be regarded as more than minimal. It was that prejudice which was added to the great and prejudicial delay before the writ was issued. There was sufficient ground for dismissing the action for want of prosecution.

Applying that principle his Lordship was clearly of opinion that the present action should be dismissed. It would be an intolerable injustice to the hospital—and to the nurses and staff—to have to fight it out 12 years after the incident when they quite reasonably expected it to be closed 11 years ago.

In addition, it seemed to his Lordship that in *Birkett v James* the House had in mind only actions begun within the old period of limitation, and not actions like the present for personal injuries which under the Limitation Act, 1975, could be started more than three years after the incident. Under the 1963 Act the plaintiff could only start such an action for personal injuries if the court gave leave; but under the 1975 Act leave was no longer required; and that Act applied here for it was by section 3(1) retrospective. But even the 1975 Act did not give a plaintiff an unqualified legal right to start an action after three years. It depended on his state of knowledge and on whether it was equitable; those were matters to be threshed out at the trial.

Mr Roberts suggested that that was the way to deal with delay nowadays—to let it be considered at the trial, and that the application to dismiss it should be considered as delay and prejudice since the writ.

His Lordship could not agree. It would submit the hospital to even greater injustice. They would have to go to trial on only the issue of negligence and damages alleged 12 years ago, but also on the issue of the plaintiff's knowledge and whether it was equitable to allow the action to proceed. If the House in *Birkett v James* had in mind the 1975 Act (which now applied to all actions pending for personal injuries), his Lordship felt that they were dealing with a case where the action was started more than three years after the date on which the cause of action accrued; the court could then consider the delay to see whether the defendant was seriously prejudiced by the delay.

The delay of nine months was properly admitted to be inordinate and inexcusable, and it was also a serious prejudice to the hospital to have the action hanging over its head even for that time. (In that simple ground the action should be dismissed for want of prosecution. The appeal should be allowed.)

LORD JUSTICE GEOFFREY LAKE, concurring, said that the action was barred by the Limitation Act, 1939, to allow the action to proceed.

If one applied Lord Diplock's words on post-writ delays (at p 51 of *Birkett v James*) strictly to the present case, it might seem that the action should not be dismissed; and it would follow that the defendant might have to wait all the trial before obtaining a ruling that the plaintiff's delay was such that the action should not continue. By that time the defendant would have incurred substantial costs which he might not be able to recover. His Lordship found it hard to believe that the court should be so concerned to prevent such a manifest injustice.

LORD JUSTICE EVELEIGH delivered a concurring judgment. The Solicitors: Levers, Son & Baldwin, Bromley, Lewis Silkin & Partners, Peckham.

No loss, no compensation

Secretary of State for Employment v Wilson
Before Mr Justice Phillips, Mrs D. Lancaster and Mr L. D. Cowan [Judgments delivered November 11]

An employee who claimed compensation from the Secretary of State for Employment for dismissal without notice, the employers having subsequently gone into liquidation, was only entitled to the amount of compensation less the sum earned from new employers during the notice period.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal allowed an appeal by the Secretary of State from a decision of a Manchester industrial tribunal last February when Mr A. G. Wilson was entitled to £240, the sum to which he would have been entitled had he not received the correct notice: one month.

MR JUSTICE PHILLIPS, reading the judgment, said that three days after Mr Wilson's dismissal without notice on March 19, 1976, he started work with a new company on the same day. On April 21 his old employer went into voluntary liquidation. Had he received the proper notice he would have been entitled to be paid for the notice period at the rate of £60 a week.

Because of the insolvency of his employer, Mr Wilson claimed against the Secretary of State under sections 64 and 66 of the Employment Protection Act, 1975.

Although he had suffered no loss, he said that he was entitled to payment for the notice period.

The Secretary of State said that he was only entitled to payment to the extent that there was no mitigation by other earnings; his loss had been entirely mitigated and nothing was owed to him.

The answer turned on the Contract (Rights of Employee) Act, 1972. Section 1 prescribed a minimum period of notice and section 2 prescribed a minimum period of notice to be paid during the notice period. Those provisions and the scheme of the Act suggested that the intention was to incorporate the statutory terms into the contract of employment, and that an employee who wished to enforce them would sue on his contract of employment as statutorily amended and not on the statute. Section 3 provided that if an employer failed to give the required notice, the rights conferred by section 2 should be taken into account in assessing his liability for breach of contract.

Section 3 plainly assumed that an employee's remedy was to be by way of a claim for damages for breach of contract and that in quantifying his loss the rights conferred by section 2 would be taken into account. It followed that the amount of damages would have to be reduced by his earnings during the notice period. Mr Wilson had worked no jobs, and he had no claim. The appeal would be allowed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor.

Encouraging a fracas

Regina v Gedge
A youth who waved his arms and shouted encouragement to his friends in a fracas between two gangs who were throwing stones at each other and thereby breaching the peace was held by the Court of Appeal to have been rightly convicted of using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour whereby a breach of the peace was likely to be occasioned contrary to section 5 of the Public Order Act, 1936.

MR JUSTICE TALBOT, who was sitting with Lord Justice Orr and Mr Justice May, said that although a charge under section 5 was only appropriate where the words or behaviour were preparatory to a breach of the peace, in the present case there had not been just one breach of the peace going on, but a number of

separate breaches. Inflammatory words likely to occasion a breach of the peace might be more likely to produce that effect where breaches were actually taking place. Any further insulting words might further incite the riot. It was not true to say that section 5 was not designed to cover the present type of situation.

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48 Greek Street, Soho, London, W.1. Tel.: 437 4460

We hardly expected Monsieur Vignon and his wife to tell us about girls' legs and the Folies-Bergère.

Bordeaux is perhaps the most famous and most classical vineyard in the world. And certainly one of the most naturally blessed. The soil is the poor, stoney stuff that all vines seem to love, and the warm Atlantic



A nice little place in the country.

climate spreads into the heart of the region along the Gironde estuary.

And if the people, the third vital factor in the production of wines, are slightly more serious and less exuberant than those of other French regions, then so are their wines. There are no 'amusing little wines' in Bordeaux.

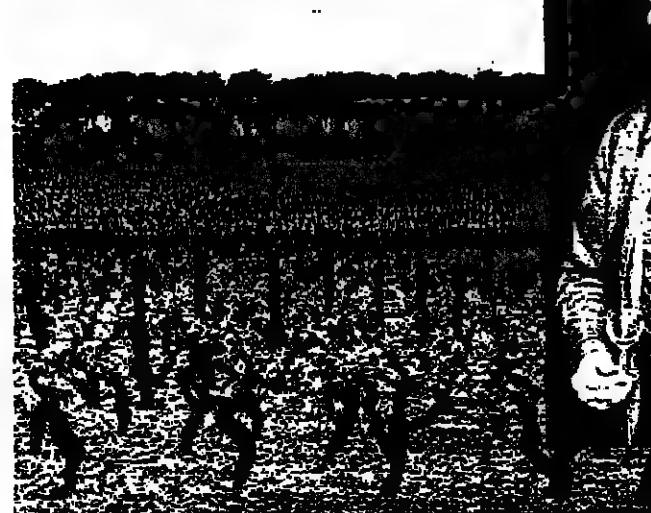
Many of the characteristics of the great Châteaux reds also apply to the white wines of the region. And it was these that we went to discover. We found a surprising variety.

In Graves the dry whites are very dry. The appellation "Bordeaux" refers to wine which is mainly medium dry. And in Sauternes and the Premières Côtes de Bordeaux the wines are sweet.

All have a distinct family likeness, with many of the qualities of their famous red counterparts. They have what the French call 'plenty of fruit'. And because they need a little longer to mature they have more character and distinction than most white wines.

The sweet ones, especially, are also very full-bodied. Madame Vignon pointed out one of the characteristics of a full-

May. The new shoots will grow three times this high.



A sunny day in Sauternes.

bodied Bordeaux white: she twirled her glass and showed us how wine clung to the insides, and formed little rivulets which she called 'girls' legs'. 'Look,' she exclaimed, giving her glass another twirl, 'the Folies-Bergère.'

That evening we were invited to dinner by Monsieur Dupont, a negotiant, or wine buyer, and we got a few surprises.



The wooden casks can be 8ft. high, the stacks of bottles even higher.

To begin with, we experienced the contrast of dry Graves with a fairly sweet freshwater fish.

With the main course—roast-chicken spiked with garlic—he served Sauternes! The combination was unusual for us—we'd thought of Sauternes as a dessert

wine—but perfectly complementary. M. Dupont told us that he would drink sweet wine with any dry meat, fish, and even cheese, especially a strong blue one like Roquefort! Amazingly, he wouldn't drink Sauternes with a dessert.

At the end of three glorious days in Bordeaux, visiting vineyards, cellars and of course tasting the wine, we had, above all, learnt two things.

Firstly, it's a shame to limit your experience of wine by saying, for example, 'Oh, I only like dry wine.' We now have a much wider view.

On every bottle of Bordeaux wine you will see the words 'Appellation Contrôlée', which is France's highest designation of fine wines.

If you'd like a free colour leaflet on Appellation Contrôlée wines, please write to Food from France, 14 Berkeley Street, London W1X5AD.

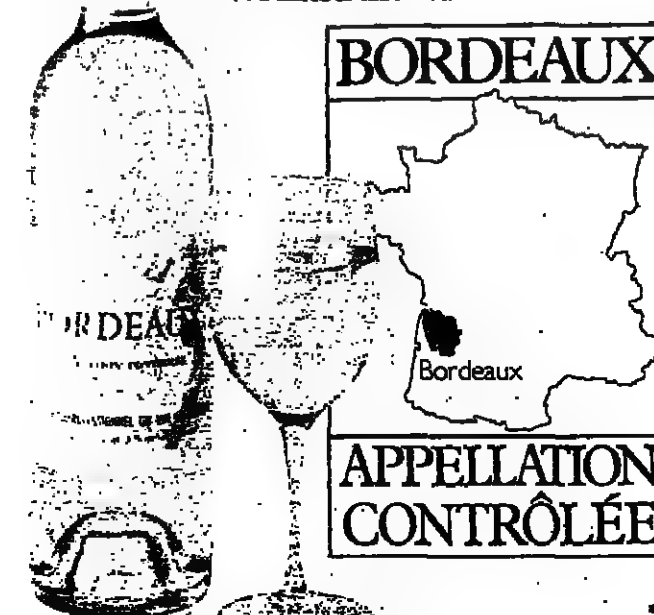
Ah! perfection!



Monsieur and Madame Vignon own a few hectares in the Premières Côtes de Bordeaux.

Secondly, there are few rules. You drink what you like with what you want. Or you drink it just as a drink. Bordeaux whites are particularly good chilled, as an aperitif or just as a refreshing summer drink. They have the quality of making you want to sip, and go on sipping.

Monsieur Gilbert, another negotiant, was right when he told us 'There is only one way to discover which Bordeaux you like. Try them all! We liked them all.'



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Angus Wilson: a busy man for a writer who is 'not popular'

It looks as though it has been a busy year for Angus Wilson. Or, if you look more closely, a busy four years. Our last week was *The Strange Ride of Rudyard Kipling* (Secker & Warburg, £5.50), the life and works of the writer who has fascinated not only Angus Wilson in the past few years, but also Philip Masson and Kingsley Amis. During October *Writers of East Anglia* (Secker & Warburg, £4.50) was published, sponsored by the Eastern Arts Association, and selected and introduced by Angus Wilson. It is an anthology of writers, some well known, some not, of poetry and prose, from people who live in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

As an East Anglian for the past 20 years (he lives near Bury St Edmunds), Angus Wilson found himself with 2,000 manuscripts to choose from, including some contributions that he had invited. There is a poem from Hammond Innes, and a piece by Laurence van der Post on Edward Seago, the painter. One thing really struck him—the quality of writing by the old. An example of this is the work of a 73-year-old poet, Reg Drake. Another is an extract from a novel, *Back Street* by Jack Overhill, who at 74, has written 30 novels, of which three have been published.

If there was a disappointment, it was that there were no entries to speak of from the universities of Cambridge or Essex, where he teaches. "I don't actually teach creative writing at the university, but I do talk to people about their novels and their stories, and none of these people sent anything."

In his youth, he remembers people used to be published in university magazines. It is a puzzle. "But then I didn't start writing until I was 39. I wrote short stories, because I only had weekends to write in, and I couldn't write anything long. This is in fact true. I had to learn to write novels." The former Sunday writer has nothing but sympathy and encouragement for the people who sent him their work.

It was not until he left the British Museum, where he was deputy to the superintendent of the Reading Room, that the novels began. It is the planning and the research that takes the time. For the Kipling book, he has visited all the important scenes of Kipling's inspiration. Early this year he had an idea for a novel, and has spent the summer going round looking at baroque houses—he thinks he has now investigated all the Avonbury houses that there are—and anyone interested in his methods and manuscripts will find them at Iowa University, in cardboard boxes containing a high proportion of cards and notes and a low proportion of actual manuscripts. It is only when the planning and note taking has finished that he begins to write—and does not look at the notes.

"In my last novel (*As if by Magic*, 1975) the central figure was a rice geneticist—and I did an enormous amount of reading. For *Late Call* I spent a lot of time in new towns, going to meetings in Harlow." His books, he says, are social on the surface, though he feels he is a romantic writer. Apart from his novels, he has written studies of Zola (*Emile Zola*, 1950), Dickens (*The World of Charles Dickens*, 1970) and now Kipling. "I am drawn to all these people because I am not a popular writer," he declares. "I wish I were!" Part of the reason for this, he thinks, is because his books are all quite different. Those who like *The Middle Age of Mrs. Eliot*, which was published in 1953, and won the James Tait Black Memorial Prize—might have felt at sea with *The Old Men at the Zoo*, and those who loved *Late Call* might not have cared for *Anglo-Saxon Attitudes*. But he says in print, and in a paperback, and finds it ironic that as a former librarian, he is now in the forefront of the battle for public lending rights.

Zola the materialist is described as "a black poet." Dickens was the most confident writer of the three, though what Mr Wilson is deeply attracted to is "the baroque funerary note—the extraordinary grotesquerie to do with grief and mortality." Kipling is, of course, the post-Darwinian in the trio.

A stint as visiting professor at the University of Delaware is also encompassed in the busy year. But by next summer he hopes to have finished his new novel, and has yet another in mind. He writes out of doors as much as he can, in the much loved and picturesque "wild" garden surrounding his country home. It sounds idyllic. But the world is not forgotten. He is more than concerned—even deeply worried—by the development of political violence against racial minorities. In the 1930s he protested against Mosley, going to the East End what he calls "a black-out" to see the terrible things that were happening in Germany.

It is not only developments in the violence of politics that worry him. Among the 2,000 manuscripts for *Writers of East Anglia* there was one element that really disturbed him: a number of stories that were horror comic with absolutely nothing funny in them at all—I am sure all derived from Polanski and Hitchcock. Sick jokes—but not funny."

A soaking wet cat shoots into the room. The horrors recede. Every year is a busy year for a writer who, though perhaps, as he says himself, is not popular, in the sense of mass sales, film and television rights, vast paperback contracts, is celebrated in this country and abroad as that increasingly rare phenomenon, the man of letters.

Philippa Toomey



Take French leave for Christmas shopping in Calais

You can spend a day, or much of it, Christmas shopping in Calais for £5 return (children are £3.50 each). You might wonder why, when so many shoppers are invading our shores and stores—but after all, £1 does buy you just as much more in France. And the fare is a bargain in any case, since the Dover-Calais crossing on Townsend Thoresen ferries is normally £2.50 more for adults.

Of course, there are other Dover-Calais runs, such as British Rail's Sealink and Hoverspeed's hovercraft. I took the Hovercraft TT route and must point out right here that only the prices are cut, not the services. There are duty-free shops on board, which take only British currency, but I suggest leaving the purchases for the return journey.

From Calais, TT runs a bus to the Continent Hypermarket outside the town. Now I happen to think that a hypermarket negates all that is traditional about French shopping, which is based on the daily visit to shop for the fresh bread and cheese. But the hypermarket expertise is originally French and, since Carrefour started the epidemic in the Lyons area, hypermarkets have flourished until there were, by late September, 385 of them in France, employing more than 70,000 people, while the average bill at the checkout comes to about £15 per customer.

So much trade has been filtering away from small shopkeepers that a kind of halt was called last year and planning permission was granted to only two new hypermarkets. But the Government has been forced to admit that inflation in food prices has become so rampant that more hypermarkets will once again be encouraged because they do hold prices down by the surest means of all, the force of competition. From which you can deduce that the prices on the Continent are enviable.

And so they are by French standards, but it is important to remember that we are still enjoying cheap prices in most merchandise here in Britain. I please do not write to take me to task for saying this, because it is absolutely true. I said it once on radio and was bombarded with denials, but the facts are there.

Bicycles are undoubtedly superb value—the French are historically good at making bicycles for a population that takes to two wheels rather more than we do. A folding bike is about £40 for all ages and sizes while a racing bike, in parts all laid out and ready to be assembled by the enthusiast, will cost £60. Children's convertible trike-bikes are from £7 for the real toddlers, who will probably never need the removal of the side wheels which operates the conversion. It would be more sensible to buy convertibles at about £13, which should take a child up to about six years old or maybe a little longer. Incidentally you can take home only £50 per person in gifts, apart from the duty-free stuff, so take the family with you if you plan bike-buying.

Glassware is also good value. The Cristal d'Arques is variable. Much of it is about 50 per cent cheaper than in Britain, some of it is closer to United Kingdom prices. Whisky tumblers with heavy bases decorated with crystal cuts are excellent value at about £1.50 each, sold in packs of four or six. Wine glasses and goblets, not to everyone's taste but on the whole slender and elegant, are equally good value in various shapes and sizes. The brandy goblets, however, were roughly 30p less than in England. I didn't much like the

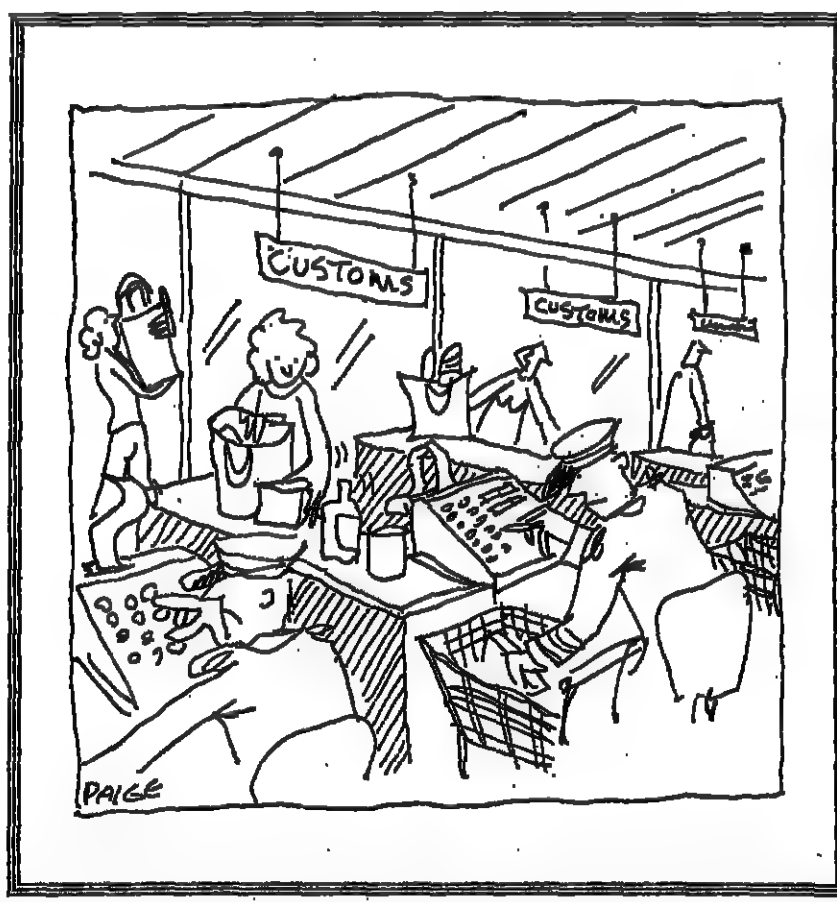
plainer glassware because it wasn't plain enough, but it was relatively cheap. Le Creuset cookware—now there you can save. Lovely lime greens stand out from the familiar yellows and reds and oranges, and the streamlined shapes are sampling. A top-of-the-cooker roaster and pan has a concave lid with studded undersides to make sure that the self-basting keeps the flavour and the moisture—just lift the lid a little to one side near the final stages of top roasting. This at £10 or £11, was undoubtedly £3 to £4 cheaper than in most shops here, and other Le Creuset showed proportionate economies. They are heavy, so be prepared.

Wines and cheeses, among the best buys in Calais, were well stocked, and the Continent—but I think you do better in the town's shopping streets, to which the coach can take you. In fact, it might be worth spending most of the day here unless you want this bargain price. A variety of cheeses you will not find bicycles, but you will find an imaginative choice of foods. Pure pork pâté was on special offer when I was there, as were nice round cardboard boxes of Brie, Camembert, as well as a variety of cheeses we do not often see over here and the more familiar ones, are usually cheaper, but you would need to buy a good many to effect substantial savings. However, the packaging is so elaborate that you will be tempted but do take care either to give your present early—say when you go to visit before Christmas—or to be sure you can keep the cheese in your fridge until you can give them away or them yourselves. Even a packet of crisps can be an original present with French packaging.

Fancy biscuits and wafers are something we do very badly compared with the French. The sweeter biscuits, like small orange lemon, various fruit and mint flavours, are delicious for elevenses, tea or after dinner, and can make a simple fool or moussé look as well as taste delicious. The smaller ones, like the ones in the tin, are small, but you are buying a different taste. The French also know what to do with sweets, on which the children can surely be unleashed a little at Christmas time. I bought little plastic aeroplanes and a couple of lories and containers packed with sweets rather like Smarties but a lot prettier. There were masses of these plastic, sweet-filled toys, all quite cheap, as well as some rather quaint little plastic baskets of wild strawberries (sugary simulations, that is). A real basket would have been desirable, but would have cost more.

There is also a greater choice of plunks at Prisunic, and you should be able to buy three bottles for less than £1 total. However, in the interests of saving too much weight-lifting I would recommend buying your plunks in the plasticated cardboard containers that are sold by most grocers and smaller supermarkets. You may want to buy better wines but do be warned—the great marques and the good wines are often cheaper in Britain than in France. Children's and baby shoes are tempting, as they should be because they are so much nicer than over here. Minute boots for toddlers and really adult shoes are not necessarily all that cheap—coming from £4 and very rapidly becoming £7 for better designs and makes; but they are so original. Track shoes, plimsolls and sports shoes generally are certainly cheaper over there.

A loaf of two, whether a French stick or not (the other French loaves are delicious) is a nice finisher for the



pâtés and cheeses. French butter is cheaper here than there but you might fall for the gingham-wrapped kilos in baskets because they look so mouth-watering. Having struggled on board with your purchases, you can still buy a litre of spirits (or two of fortified wines and aperitifs); the 200 cigarettes or 100 cigars or 50 cigars or 250 grammes of tobacco; the 3 fluid ounces of toilet water; and the three litres of cable wine—although it sometimes pays to take extra and pay the duty, for it still could be cheaper by anything from 20p to 50p per bottle to do that. The allowances are not permitted to children under 17, by the way.

The crossing takes 30 minutes and you can eat or drink on board. If you can do it in comfort, I would suggest taking the car to Dover—ferries run from 7.05 am and return up to about 9 pm. Remember that French time is one hour ahead of ours and do take good, strong capacious bags with you. Banks on the ships will change your money and, if you have no passport or independent passport, identity cards can be arranged at Dover if you allow a little extra time.

From November 26, Townsend Thoresen will be combining with National Travel to run coaches to the docks from a number of selected parking places round South London. Depending on how far out of London you live, the departures vary from 7 am at Thornton Heath to 8.10 at Crayford Coach Station, and you get back at any time from 23.10 to 21.55. You would catch the 10.50 ferry over, lose the hour for clock differences, and still get in plenty of shopping and lunching hours before getting back for the 19.15 return ferry home with supper aboard. With coach,

the total return fare is £10.25 or £5.15 for children. Details from booking agents or TT, 1 Camden Crescent, Dover, Kent.

Apart from the hypermarket shop mainly in or around the rue Royale and the Boulevards Jacquard and Lafayette (a map of Calais will be given to you on the boat together with information leaflets about the place). Covered market day in the large square at the seaside end of the rue Royale is Wednesday, but an open market near the Casino operates on Thursday and Saturday.

Wrappings are poor for the most part, so have a collection of plastic bags with you, besides the big shopping bags—wheeled trolleys would be a good idea. If perennials are on your list, remember that you cannot bring back any root vegetable and no raw meat, but the fish is fresh and cheap so struggle back with some to go with all the other foods and "dine out" at home on the day after you get back. In any case, despite the obvious fact that you can cover the cross Channel fare very easily but will find it less easy to cover the fares or petrol to Dover by duty-free or cheaper shopping, do not look upon this purely as a shopping trip but a spree. Go with someone who will laugh with you, sightsee with you and eat and shop with you à la Française. As such, it is really a worthwhile day off that is, if just as exhausting, almost as good as a holiday. If you can take a few days of the latter, get a list of hotels with prices, of restaurants and of things to see in Calais from the Tourist Office, 12 Boulevard Clemenceau, 62100 Calais. Or telephone Calais 34.62.40.

Sheila Black

ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA AND BALLET

COLOSSEUM, Credit 5000 01-240 5038. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA, 7.30. *Les Huguenots*, 7.30. This production, the first of two new productions of the company, is a collaboration with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. The production is by John Lough.

GOVERNMENT OPERA, 8.0. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

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GOVERNMENT OPERA, 8.0. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

CONCERTS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, Tonight 8.0. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, 8.0. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL, 8.0. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

THEATRES

ADOLPHUS THEATRE, 01-856 7611. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

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ADOLPHUS THEATRE, 01-856 7611. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

ART GALLERIES

ADOLPHUS THEATRE, 01-856 7611. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

ADOLPHUS THEATRE, 01-856 7611. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

ADOLPHUS THEATRE, 01-856 7611. *Les Huguenots*, 8.0. Opera. Nov. 21, 7.0. Sub. Evgs. 8.0. Mat. 2.0.

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THE ARTS

A joyful bazaar of comic invention

The Comedy of Errors
Aldwych

Ned Chaillet

An Italian village square bedecked with trinkets and tourist goods is as likely as any place for an updated musical version of *The Comedy of Errors* to take place. In *Twelve Nuns*, already lauded production, which Stratford last year, those "boys from Syracuse" Antipholus and his slave, Dromio, find more than the multiple confusions Shakespeare handed them with. There is a cunning, clever, escapes the square on a high wire and Mr Nunn's own songs with music by Guy Woolfenden and, of course, there are the twin brothers, Antipholus and Dromio of Ephesus.

In Mr Nunn's production the Royal Shakespeare Company is seen to be at its best, with a hardly a slack performance even in the back of the chorus, and because it is a musical the chorus has much more to do than carry the plot along. When the twins from Syracuse first begin to be mistaken for their Ephesus look-alikes there are bar-girls and waiters to witness the confusion. By the time the resident wife, goldsmith, police officer and courtesans have been caught up in the confusion, the entire village is in pursuit of

first the one, then the second set of twins.

Though the twins manage to look remarkably alike, with Roger Rees, as the Syracuse Antipholus, giving an uncanny imitation of some of Mike Gwilym's characteristics, it is their individual talents that show through the outrageous costuming. Michael Williams, clowning with his mobile face while Nickolas Grace, as the Ephesus Dromio, gives an impressive exhibition of his acrobatic skills in some purely athletic dance. Judi Dench, as Mike Gwilym's presumed wife, convincingly harries Mr Rees into the house to dinner and into bed, scarcely letting a word slip past her without wittily telegraphing it to the audience.

There is such talent in the company and there are enough clever bits of business, enough stylish dispirited and such witty modern readings of Shakespeare's words that it is really unnecessary for Mr Nunn to provide such obvious gags as the one in which the gay goldsmith sits down in protest among the women while the men all stand. For the most part it is a joyful bazaar of comic invention clearly calculated to entertain. Though it is sometimes uncomfortable with Shakespeare's language, it certainly has the spirit of his play.



Pippa Guard and Judi Dench

Lynda Russell/Fiona
Kimm
Purcell Room

Barry Millington

By a happy chance the winner of last year's competition, Lynda Russell, has been awarded the prize for her performance in *Die Fledermaus*. She has been singing in the Purcell Room for some time, and her performance in *Die Fledermaus* was a triumph. She has been singing in the Purcell Room for some time, and her performance in *Die Fledermaus* was a triumph.

Lynda Russell, the soprano of the duo, has an affecting, edifying quality in her voice. Fiona Kimm contributes a rounded mezzo to the partnership, a rich tone, and a sense of humour beyond her years. In Purcell's *Die Fledermaus* with which they opened, the overlapping of the parts drew attention to the likeness of their timbres without making one feel that there was any lack of individuality.

Billy Budd
New, Cardiff

Kenneth Loveland

It was with Michael Gelfo's production of *Billy Budd* in 1972 that the Welsh National started their run of successes in opera. The more recent *Die Fledermaus*, its revival on the opening night of the November season found Roger Butler's sets, rebuilt after last year's fire, again strongly evocative of the days of sail, and Mr Gelfo's production once more distinguished by the realism with which it deals with the claustrophobic inner conflicts on HMS Indomitable, its sharply delineated procession of characters, and its careful build up and release of tensions.

A penetrating production of *Billy Budd* must take its emotional cues from the design of instrumental sonorities, with which the music takes form. Melville's tale, beyond the limitations of literature, giving nuances to their motivation that are denied by the confines of words, and the success of the Welsh production is that one is always aware of the shifting dramatic emphasis and the changing colours of the orchestral textures.

Richard Armstrong secured playing from the Welsh Phil-

harmonia, which despite marginal imprecision drew attention to those orchestral strokes which cause the imagination to stir, such as the plaintive saxophone after the flogging, the illuminating sequence of chords as Vere invisibly tells Billy the court's verdict, the hint of a slowly rocking sea watching outside when Vere and his officers meet in the captain's cabin, and the flickering woodwind figures which so often remind us that, somewhere above, seabirds circle and sea breezes ruffle the sails. The chorus singing was not only wonderfully exciting at close quarters; it was also haunting as a distant backdrop to Vere's soliloquy.

Thomas Allen's study of Billy has gained in observation of detail and now even more expressively sung than before, zestfully breezy in his farewell to his old ship, tenderly poignant as he explores the moving simplicity of the ballad, and generally radiating the fresh innocence that invites destruction. Forbes Robinson's Claggart is again a calculated study in cold evil, and there are many gifted sketches in support.

Hines caused Nigel Douglas to make a late withdrawal, and Stuart Kile had to sing Vere with score in hand. It was a plucky effort, and whenever he could permit himself the freedom to expand, enough was heard to suggest that he should now be given a scheduled appearance.

Secret rituals from the Aborigines—David Gulpill in *The Last Wave*

Paris Film Festival pursues its unconventional course

Now in its third year, the Paris Film Festival has firmly established its style, and sticks with reasonable fidelity to a declared policy of showing the new and unknown rather than simply offering previews of coming art-house products. This year the organizers achieved the considerable feat of duplicating no more than three or four of the 80 films selected by the London Film Festival, which follows immediately afterwards.

Paris is more concentrated than London. With five auditoria in the luxurious Empire Cinema in the Avenue Wagram screening continuously throughout the day, and additional tourist shows in three viewing theatres near by, there is little chance of petting each French film side event as week-long tributes to Jacques Prevert, Raymond Queneau, John Cassavetes, Abel Gance, Marcel Marceau and the famous pianist, Paris art house, Studio des Ursulines.

This year's festival was particularly notable for films emerging from under various clouds. *The Mink* cycle, directed by Darius Mehry, the American-educated Iranian director of *The Cow and The Poet*, has been banned by the censors since 1974, presumably on account of its very unflattering picture of the lives of some of the Shah's subjects. The hero is a village lad who betrays the state and is sent to the city. Around the hospital he falls in with back-street racketeers trading in infected blood extracted on the cheap from drunks, junkies and the sick and needy of the city. Cheerful, energetic and unimpaired by moral qualms, the boy quickly learns other ways of getting rich as the cost of these even less fortunate than himself. It is a bitter parable about the inevitable corruption of innocence in an underprivileged society, told with wit, and a fine sense of narrative and character.

It is harder to see why Vera Chytilova's *The Apple* Game has had troubles with the Czech authorities (it was withdrawn from the July Berlin festival without explanation), unless it is that in the current political atmosphere bureaucrats simply suspect any film which recaptures something of the vitality and satirical edge of the early film renaissance that ended abruptly in 1968. A simpler explanation that has been suggested is that the Prague medical authorities objected to comedy about the concurrent love affairs of an intern in a maternity hospital with the wife of a colleague and a young nurse. The doctor is played with a nice understated comedy by Jiri Menzel, and the director of *Classy Observed* Trnava was himself one of the bright hopes of the last new wave.

The sensitivity of the Polish authorities to *Kryszka* (Camouflage) seems only to have been temporary; and the film will now be seen at the London

Festival, following Paris. It is a cool but fierce commentary on the politics of academic failure and success, examined in the microcosm of a university summer school. Originality and talent, it seems, are less material than the ability to "camouflage" gifts which might be too exceptional for comfort to keep on the right side of the right people; and definitely not to get drunk and bite the rector's ear (which is how the brightest student in the school chooses to express his particular frustrations). Zdzislaw shows us a situation not peculiar only to socialist systems; but there are rather sharp local references (not least the nostalgic yearning of one conformist for the happy days of 25 years ago, in other words, the high Stalinist era), which could explain a degree of official unease.

Another Polish film still apparently not allowed to compete in international festivals (it appeared in Paris only in a market screening) is the talented Marek Piwowski's *Is It True They Hit Hard Here?* On the surface this is an exceptionally good tale of crime and investigation—the cracking down of a smart young gangster who has built up an ingenious defence of alibi. At another level it sparkles with Piwowski's own quirky irony; and his copying of the police methods in setting up agents provocateurs might well seem subversive in a society where the police are not as a rule open to too much question. Now the least quality of the film is that its actors are all non-professionals—two of the policemen being played by boxing champions.

Eastern Europe was very much on show. Maria Mănescu, whose *Adaptation* was recently seen on television and whose *Nine Months* is in the London Festival, was in Paris with her latest film, *The Two of Them*. The tale of an early Mănescu film, *Binding Sentiments*, seems appropriate to her ability to take the simplest relationships and explore them in absorbing detail and subtlety. Her new film is the story of a woman in charge of a hostel for working girls (Marina Vlady, who befriends a feckless girl (Lili Monori, from *When Joseph Returns* and *Nine Months*) without explanation). The effort to resolve the problems of this *enferme* wife poses the unacknowledged failure of the older woman's apparently conventionally happy marriage.

A panorama of new Budapest production showed how successfully Hungary continues to sustain the most consistent record of all the socialist cinema. Two films introduced new directors of exceptional promise. Ferenc András's *The Devil Beats His Wife* and *Marries His Daughter* was a twisted, grotesque comedy set on August 20—a day which Hungarians are still more inclined to honour as the Feast

of St Stephen than as the Day of the Constitution. A village family exert themselves to entertain a visiting bureaucrat; but the prime little puritan with his stomach ulcers is unable to find any common ground with the Breughel-like merry-makers, hogging and swilling the fruits of their labour. István Dárdai's *Holidays in Britain* shares the same facility for comedy without caricature, though in his case it is achieved, remarkably, through the use of non-professional actors. This story is a simple, real-life anecdote about a schoolboy who is selected to join a party of children visiting England. His rather dim and helpless peasant parents are, however, too nervous to let him go, and remain impervious to the persuasions of teachers and officials, who in any case have selected the child without even knowing him. Dárdai's film is at once sharp and endearing, an odd mixture of exasperation and love for his foolish people.

A collaboration with West German television, *A Very Ordinary Life*, directed by Ingeborg and Rainer Kahay, is a remarkable *cine ma vie* portrait of an old Hungarian peasant woman, Veronika Kiss, who preserves intact the values and the nobility of a long-vanished way of life. At the time the film was made, Veronika had coolly decided that before she died she would accomplish two Herculean tasks—to plough her field and to visit her son in England. Having won her total trust, the film-makers follow with moving intimacy her strenuous effort to accomplish the second ambition.

Paris instituted prizes for the first time, and the main award was shared between *The Mink* cycle and the Canadian Allan King's *Who Has Seen the Wind*, a somewhat sweet and astringent story of growing up during the Depression in a little Saskatchewan town. A merited Special Jury Prize was given to an Australian film, Peter Weir's *The Last Wave*. The gift for atmosphere that was already evident in *The Cars That Ate Paris* and *Picnic at Hanging Rock* is here seen fully realized, in a story of fear and the occult.

Weir's conception and writing raise the film far above the level of films of *The Exorcist* genre. The story is firmly and factually based on Aborigine lore (Weir had the aid of Aborigine organizations; and a leading player, a matriarchal man called Nandjwarra

Amagula, M.B.E., is leader of a Groote Eylandt tribe)—notably the belief in a separate life and communication through dreams. The intense atmosphere of menace is created not out of horrors, but familiar elements—hallstorm, rain, wind, clouds, floods, waves. The leading players are Richard Chamberlain, who conveys admirably the special vulnerability of the young lawyer defending a group of Aborigines charged with murder, and David Gulpill (the boy from Nicholas Roeg's *Walkabout*) as the young Aborigine who provides him with a link to the secret rituals that lie behind the killing.

Boxer is the first collision of the Japanese *enferme* terrible Shuji Terayama with the commercial cinema. Since he doubles as a sports writer (as well as avant-garde film-maker, poet, novelist and theatre director) Terayama must have seemed the natural choice for a producer who wanted a poor man's *Rocky*. Terayama gave him rather more: in a film shot and edited in five weeks (the *Boxer* was even begun) Terayama has succeeded remarkably in grafting together the archetypal boxing melodrama with his own bizarre underworld of mixed whores, pimps, beggars and broken-down dandies, who act as a chorus to the story.

Of the home production, much was expected of Chris Marker's *Le Fond de l'air est rouge*, dedicated to the notion that the Third World War has already been waged for 10 years, from Vietnam to Chile and beyond. The theme is wide and vague; and though Marker has assembled remarkable documents (American propaganda films about Vietnam; remarkable coverage of Chile) he lacks the skill of a Marcel Ophüls to explore a coherent theme through images.

As to Jean Eustache's *Une Sale Histoire*, it was apparently just that—a voyeur's dirty story told twice, once by Michel Lonsdale, once by non-professional actors. I say "apparently" because every performance of the film was packed in advance by scandal-seekers; and the only time I managed to get into the theatre it was to be promptly thrown out by a big firmman observing safety regulations. More successful colleagues were consoling: the theatrical exercise, they said, was thin; and the dirty talk small compensation.

David Robinson

What's behind football violence?

Panorama
BBC 1

Michael Church

Many people find football violence exciting. Guilty middle-class socialists loved it in the sixties. Sociologists have long made territorial claims on it. The media have, frankly, driven upon it. So was Charles Wheeler's inaugural *Panorama* simply following the trend?

No. *F-Troop*, *Treatment* and the *Half-Way Line*, which looked at the rules and values prevalent among the terrace gangs at Millwall, was a serious and subtle piece of reporting which the BBC would be wise to build on.

David Taylor, the reporter, quickly established what the Millwall supporters were interested in. Their team (not the players, stupidly) were nationally known as "hard". You wave your scarf and cheer but the real thing, the ritual, is to be a pezzee. "People are frightened of us all over England."

From the *Half-Way Line* you graduate, if you understand it, to *Treatment* and from there to the really violent *F-Troop*. Police fines, which you may not pay, act as rungs on the ladder. You are fiercely loyal,

fiercely xenophobic, fiercely protective of your area, and as a fearless fighter. You may call your friend Harry the Dog and carry out only harmless raids on stands full of enemy supporters. You may get hurt or arrested but you are invincibly jelly.

In fact, inside many of these fans there seem to be a soldier struggling to get out. Disgusted of Knebworth, repeated cries for more conscription might fall on willing ears just south of the river.

And here we came to it. A chubby National Front leader, on whose lips the word "robust" acquired a sick and sinister tone, pronounced his thoughtful verdict. "There's a but you can be a soccer hooligan." Patience, British youngsters, and the club manager, who needs big gates to pay for his new centre forward, talk of driving the hooligans away.

We were told, in a postscript, that more money is to be spent in Millwall on participatory sport for the fans: excellent. But nobody mentioned further education. The soldiers may indeed have to go and find themselves a war, but some among their confederates, earnest Mick, or driven Billy, need to go and find a college.

Royal Choral Society/
Davies
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Max Harrison

It was apt that the Royal Choral Society should begin their silver jubilee concert with Walton's *Te Deum*, as it was written for the Coronation. It is, too, essentially a ceremonial piece, its exuberant music scarcely relating to the religious text. Walton made good use of the opportunities Westminster Abbey offered for antiphonal writing, although those effects were largely lost in the Festival Hall.

Meredith Davies obtained a firm and dignified performance, all the same, for Walton's music rarely fails to make an impression. More problematic is Holst's *Choral Fantasia*, a highly imaginative even extreme setting of "Ode to Music" by Robert Bridges. The organ (played by John Birch), rather than voices or orchestra, has a central role, and its part includes a notable slow fugue. The voices are scarcely

Stan Tracey
100 Club

Richard Williams

One of the characteristics of the British modern jazz scene is its fondness for what might be called the pocket-size big band, an ensemble of between eight and ten musicians playing what amount to skeletal orchestral arrangements. Although by no means invented on these shores (Americans as Count Basie and Archie Shepp have successfully employed such a format), the past decade has witnessed a procession of excellent local middleweight bands, mostly directed by Mike Westbrook, John Surman, Chris McGregor, and Elton Dean.

The one led by pianist Stan Tracey is proving to be an enduringly successful example of the genre, and is right out of the mould. True to form, its most intriguing moments habitually occur when caution is cast aside. That was definitely the case on Monday, when the octet performed Holst's later extended work, "The Salisbury Suite". Generally speaking, the more

pronounced the extroversion, the greater the satisfaction.

Tracey has never quite managed to translate the idiosyncrasy of his piano-playing into his orchestral arrangements (a trick he always manages with his quartet). Regulated, perhaps, by the available range of tone colours, he allows the acute angles of his melodies to become blurred, while his own playing takes a back seat.

The new suite began with a rather uncomfortable Afro-Cuban section, meandered through a long ballad sequence and only reached climax in the long up-tempo finale, when the passionate young alto saxophone (Jeff Daley) was let loose. Daley's improvisation, reminiscent of the late Julian Adderley, was surpassed by that of Don Weller, an enormous tenor saxophonist whose convivial humour and startling technique are cloaked in a soft, burly tone.

All the soloists were adeptly shadowed by an enthusiastic rhythm section whose drummer, Bryan Spring, sometimes allowed his effervescence to occlude his marvellous sense of swing.

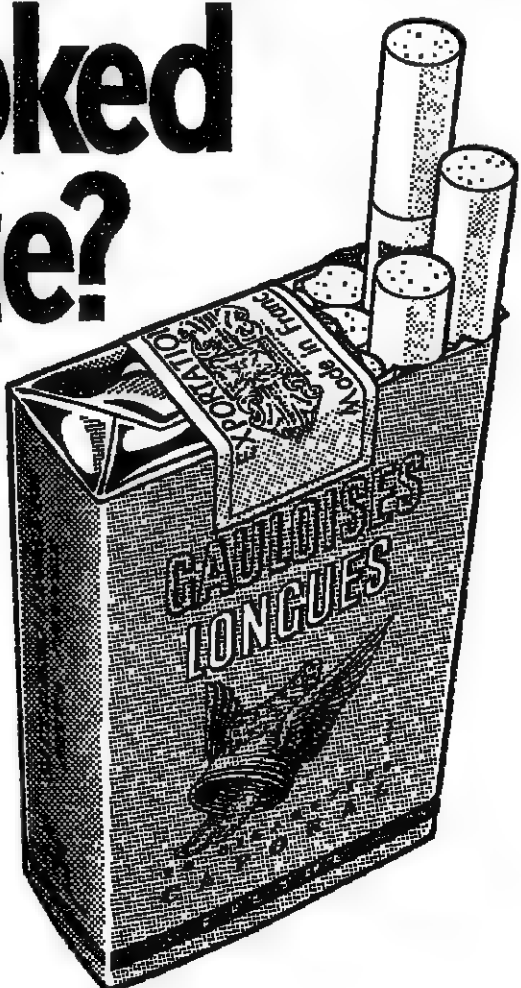
Drawings from
museums at Angers

The *Finest Drawings from the Museums at Angers* is the title of the autumn exhibition at the Heim Gallery, London from November 23 until December 22. This exhibition, under the patronage of the French Ambassador and Lord Donaldson, Minister for the Arts, con-

sists of more than 100 pictures. The spectacular Rubens *Captives in Chains* is after a fresco by Francesco Salviati and is of special interest in view of the current exhibition in Cologne, Rubens in Italy, where it is now on show, and Professor Joffé's newly published book of the same title. A drawing by Rembrandt and other sheets by major artists also represent the Dutch and Flemish schools.

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Slower growth and rising unemployment forecast for OECD nations in 1978

By David Blake
Economic Correspondent

Industrialized countries are heading for another year of slow growth in output and trade in 1978 with rising unemployment. Growth in gross domestic product during the second half of the year is expected to be down to an annual rate of 3 per cent for the 24 nations making up the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, according to forecasts prepared for a top-level meeting of officials next week.

The forecasts, prepared for a session of the Economic Policy Committee, are believed to show that after a slight acceleration in the pace of recovery in the first half of the year, there will be a very severe downturn in the most important OECD countries.

It is suggested that the target agreed by OECD ministers in June of a 4 per cent growth during the year is likely to prove difficult, if not impossible, to attain.

These setbacks follow the failure of Western nations to reach their target of 4 per cent growth for 1977, which were formally endorsed by the meeting of seven heads of government in London in the spring.

The latest forecasts, prepared by the OECD and discussed at a meeting of fore-casters from national governments, say that growth in the United States is likely to run at an annual rate of 4 per cent in the first half of next

year and only 3 per cent in the second half of 1978.

Prospects of such a sharp setback to his hopes of reducing unemployment are placing great pressure on President Carter to speed up plans for large tax cuts in the United States.

But the American picture is, however, much brighter than the outlook for Europe, which has been performing much worse than the United States during 1977.

For Europe as a whole the growth rate is expected to rise from a 2 per cent annual rate in the second half of this year to 3 per cent in the first half of 1978 before falling to around 2½ in the second half. The slight acceleration in the first half of next year reflects the initial impact of recently announced changes, most notably in Germany.

The pessimistic outlook for the German economy seems once again to be bringing criticism of the Bonn Government to the surface. German growth is expected to be at an annual rate of 3 per cent in the second half of this year, 3½ per cent in the first half of 1978, and only 2½ per cent in the second half of next year.

German officials seem to have made it clear in talks that they see no obvious scope for further stimulatory action.

The Japanese, who are also expected to perform badly, do not, on the other hand, seem to have been more prepared to consider further stimulus.

There is a growing feeling that the revaluation of the currencies of these countries has done little to help the overall world outlook.

Although a stronger yen and mark may, in time, reduce the surplus which these countries run, the most immediate effect is to cut prospects for employment in their exporting industries, thus reducing domestic demand. For revaluation to be effective, it is argued, it must be accompanied by stimulatory policy at home.

Because of the depressive effects of domestic policies, it is thought that world trade must grow by only 4 per cent next year, well below the assumption on which the Treasury has based its forecasts for the British economy.

For Britain the forecasters see a continuing slowdown unless policies are changed, though this impression owes much to the fact that OECD uses a forecast period which suggests more rapid growth in the second half of this year than appears from most models.

The forecast is thought to be that in the second half of 1977 growth will be at an annual rate of around 3½ per cent, falling to 3 per cent in the first half of next year and 2½ per cent in the second half.

Growth on this scale would not be enough to prevent unemployment rising, though the expected spring Budget announcement of tax cuts would lead to some increase.

Conference backs voluntary legal framework for employer participation CBI's anti-Bullock stand approved

By Donald Mackenzie
Labour Reporter

Confederation of British Industry leaders yesterday won endorsement for their plans for voluntary company agreements on employee participation. A resolution reaffirming the CBI's outright opposition to the Bullock report was passed by a big majority at its first conference in Brighton.

Viscount Caldecote, chairman of Delta Metals, who proposed the motion, said that the Bullock proposals were not about greater involvement by workers so much as about "trade union power".

The proposals, however, which were approved yesterday and set out in the CBI document *Britain Means Business 1977*—leave it to firms to work out their own plans for participation agreements on a voluntary basis.

Viscount Caldecote said that "some legal support" would be required but that he hoped it would be seldom invoked.

An attempt by Mr Richard Pott, chairman of the Taylor Woodrow group, to commit the conference to a rejection of the CBI's proposals on these grounds was not taken up.

None of the speakers opposed the inclusion of consociative machinery, and TUC leaders may interpret the support for the CBI's own proposals at yesterday's conference as an encouraging omen for some move towards a legal framework for participation.

The TUC is still expecting the Government to produce a White Paper on industrial democracy by Christmas, and their hopes may be marginally increased by the fact that the CBI has not been forced by its members to eliminate any reference to legislation.

Overall the TUC has maintained a discreet interest in the CBI's proceedings by sending an official observer Mr David Lea, an assistant general secretary designate, to Brighton.

Mr Lea indicated yesterday that he would be reporting to the General Council on the CBI conference.

The main point on which the CBI is now mandated to seek discussions with the TUC, as well as with the Government, is its proposals on pay determination, which will be modified as a result of the weight of the opposition to them in Monday's session.

Mr Lea said yesterday that the likely forum for this would be the series of occasional liaison meetings.

Conference report, page 8
Leading article, page 19
Business Diary, page 27



Viscount Caldecote: hoped "legal support" would be seldom invoked.

Fort Dunlop reflates its 'run flat' car tyre

Five years after the Dunlop Denovo tyre was launched as the world's first "run-flat" tyre, the manufacturers admitted publicly yesterday that it had many shortcomings. The most worrying were short life, noise, and difficult servicing.

Dunlop's belated confession will be greeted with cynicism by users of the Denovo tyre, which can be driven on even when punctured. They are only too well aware of its failings.

But a clean breast of things has become necessary if Britain's biggest tyre company is to benefit from the complete redesign which, it now claims, has not only removed the noise and servicing problems but has reborn the life of the tyre, making it comparable to the best traditional designs.

As a result, Dunlop is re-launching Denovo with a £250,000 advertising campaign this month and a further £500,000 next year. Additional plant has been installed at Fort Dunlop and existing machinery there is being modified to enable it to manufacture Denovo as well as standard radials.

This expansion means that run-flat production will change from fringe to volume production next year with output in excess of 7,000 tyres a week.

The first customer for the redesigned tyre is Leyland, which from today will offer it as optional equipment on the Mini clubman and estate range. Since August it has been fitted as standard on the Mini 1275 GT. Leyland is also substantially increasing the rate of fitment to its Rover and Princess ranges.

The only other car manufacturer using Denovo at present is Fiat, but Dunlop is confident that the improvements will soon bring others.

It is forecasting that the present figure of 30,000 United Kingdom motorists running on Denovo will be trebled next year and reach 170,000 by the end of 1979.

At the same time, the profitable replacement business—now almost non-existent—is expected to reach 100,000 a year by 1979.

Mr Josh Brooke, marketing manager of Dunlop's United Kingdom tyre division, told a press conference: "Major innovations rarely come easily, or swiftly, to universal acceptance."

Denovo still has a long way to go, but there is no doubt that the graph has turned sharply upwards. Our confidence in Denovo as the tyre of the future has been fully endorsed by Leyland. We believe that new vehicle design will increasingly favour run-flat tyres."

One of the first new cars to be fitted with Denovo will be Leyland's new £250m Mini. The absence of a spare wheel will give the new car a much-needed increase in boot space.

Clifford Webb

Yen's leap halted at 245.5 to dollar

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Nov 15

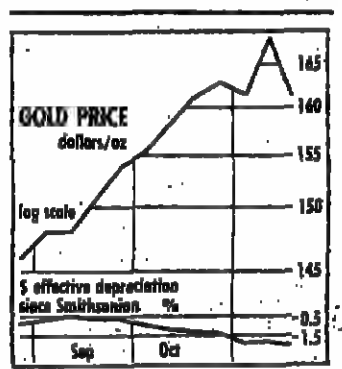
Rapid appreciation of the yen was halted today by the Bank of Japan as it sought to keep its highest postwar value of 245 to the dollar when inter-bank trading opened this morning.

As the soaring value of the yen threatened to undermine much of Japan's medium-scale export industries this morning, the Bank of Japan suddenly purchased \$400m (£100m) to hold it at 245.5 to the dollar when trading closed.

Market sources claimed that today's turnover rose by \$450m, an increase of \$224m against yesterday's level in inter-bank trade.

In real terms the floating yen now represents 15.4 per cent of the value of the dollar, a revaluation of the yen's currency since the beginning of the year. At the same time the subsequent high cost of living in Japan is likely to drive out many European business enterprises. Western diplomats suggested.

The yen's sudden appreciation also means that the value of sterling has declined by almost 3 per cent against it since the Smithsonian rate was established in December, 1971. Commercial banks were today purchasing sterling at the rate of yen 339.5 to the pound as its value rose.



Gold dropped \$4 on the London market yesterday to close at \$121.375 an ounce. The price reached a two-year high at the end of last week, after being run up on fairly weak buying. The \$6.25 dip since then has come with heavy selling as some profits have been taken.

Based on the new value of the yen, buyers in Tokyo were selling prime Kobe beef at £24 a pound.

Providing medium and minor Japanese exporters with another shock today, the respected and reliable Yamachi Research Institute predicted that the yen's value would advance to 250 to the dollar next year when Both Yamachi and the Mitsubishi Bank suggested that while some sectors of industry might lose their competitive

edge on international markets, the sharp appreciation of the yen is not likely to reduce Japan's huge trade surplus by a significant margin.

At the same time the Mitsubishi Bank suggested that its high value was likely to reduce the value of exports by 3 per cent, but prices would rise 9 per cent and raise the surplus by an additional \$61,800m at the end of the current fiscal year. If the bank is correct, Japan's total trade surplus would pass \$170,000m.

Under the basic logic of economics, the yen's appreciation should lead to an increase in Japan's imports, a slackening of exports and subsequently a reduction in Tokyo's huge trade surplus with the world.

But according to the Yamachi Research Institute, the rising yen is likely to touch off a reduction in the opposite direction. According to the institute's analysis, imports will not increase because industrial production, which consumes 70 per cent of Japan's imports—raw materials and semi-finished goods—will remain slow.

At the same time the institute is convinced that the nation's major exporters, such as the car and electronics industries, will institute production cuts. Their competitive edge on international markets, it is believed, will be maintained.

Both Yamachi and the Mitsubishi Bank suggested that while some sectors of industry might lose their competitive

edge on international markets, the sharp appreciation of the yen is not likely to reduce Japan's huge trade surplus by a significant margin.

Scrap merchants 'in for a grim year'

By Edward Townsend

Britain's ferocious scrap merchants, faced with a major decline in demand from the beleaguered British Steel Corporation, are now "in for a very grim 12-18 months", it was said yesterday.

Mr Eric Cross, president of the British Scrap Federation, said demand had dropped to the extent that "most of us will be going round with a begging bowl before long".

Consumption of home-bought scrap was down by only 42,000 tonnes in the third quarter but there was a drop in scrap stocks at steel works of 114,000 tonnes. This resulted in a drop in purchases of home produced scrap of nearly 160,000 tonnes during the quarter.

According to the federation, the shortfall has been due to reduced intake by iron foundries and the start of the BSC effort to reduce stocks in acceptance of a new government policy. The state-owned steel undertaking's stocks are being run down to about 30 per cent of their normal level.

The BSC's curbs were likely to continue into the first quarter of next year, said Mr Cross, and coming after a long period of reducing demand and falling prices was bound to have a serious effect on the whole of the scrap industry.

"The market weakness is world wide so alternative outlets for United Kingdom scrap merchants will be difficult to find," he said.

Mr Cross said that the steel union leaders, who were accompanied by Mr Jimmy Milne, secretary of the Scottish TUC, also urged that the embargo in new investment should be lifted to allow expansion at Hunterston, including a new electric arc furnace, to go ahead.

Mr Bell said the union took "strong exception" to the "demoralising" severance pay

the office until recently occupied by Lord Stokes, the group's president and former chairman.

The news was of another setback to Leyland's plans to introduce group-wide wage bargaining. Last week the TUC economic affairs committee ruled that the group must abide by the 12-months' rule, and yesterday shop stewards representing 14,000 craftsmen and 3,000 rebel toolmakers decided to join forces in a campaign for separate negotiating rights for skilled workers.

Talks were continuing last night at Ford's Halewood plant to try to end two disputes which have stopped production of the Escort and made 6,500 men idle.

This action has stopped deliveries of gearboxes for the Transit van assembly line at Southampton and the Cortina line at Dagenham.

In London Mr Edwards will run the corporation from the much smaller Nuffield House in Piccadilly. He has taken over

and sports cars and parts and servicing.

It is also expected that Mr John McKay, Mr Edwards' former public relations chief at Chrysler and now his personal assistant, will assume responsibilities for the whole of the group's public relations.

Closure of the Marylebone office block has been mooted since it became known within the company that most of Leyland International's 300 staff were preparing to move to new headquarters adjoining Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. International's European division is already established there.

In London Mr Edwards will run the corporation from the much smaller Nuffield House in Piccadilly. He has taken over

NEB strategic plans likely to be kept secret

By Edward Townsend

The long-awaited corporate plan of the National Enterprise Board, to be used by the Government as the yardstick in assessing its future performance, is now expected before the end of this year, but its general publication is highly unlikely.

Submission of the plan by the NEB to the Department of Industry has been delayed because of uncertainty about the future of British Leyland, the board's chief subsidiary.

But it is felt that the recent acceptance by Leyland workers of the pay bargaining reform scheme and the appointment of a new full-time chairman allow the NEB to put the final touches to its future strategy.

Mr Leslie Huchfield, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, has said that as most of the corporate plan is likely to be commercially confidential he would need to "consider very carefully" with the NEB whether publication would be appropriate.

Certainly, the board will argue that its strategy should remain secret. In the NEB's draft guidelines, published in March, last year, there was no requirement for publication of the corporate plan.

The guidelines stated that the preparation and review of the corporate plan would provide the framework for discussions with the Department of Industry in terms of financial targets, investment and the proportion of investment in the assisted areas, employment, improvements in efficiency or exports. Performance over the year would be assessed in the light of agreed objectives.

The NEB is required under the guidelines to provide annually an investment and financing programme, covering the period of the Public Ex-

penditure Survey, for consideration by the Department and the Treasury.

Details of the NEB's operations that have been announced include the disclosure in the Commons on Monday that since its inception it has sought the approval of the Department of Industry for the disposal of five investments, one of which was refused.

Two of the approvals have not been acted upon by the board; the third was for a disposal by one of the board's subsidiaries where the proceeds were retained for commercial reasons; the fourth, referring to the sale of Dunford and Elliott, resulted in a gross profit to the board of £161,151.

Meanwhile, the NEB is negotiating to take over the national aviation interests of the Fairley engineering group which went into receivership a month ago.

The board has made clear that it is not interested in the aviation side of the Fairley business and that it is keen to acquire the remaining part of the group without the involvement of a partner.

Fairley creditors: Creditors of Fairley Gosselies, the Belgian subsidiary of Fairley Aviation agreed to accept a legal settlement of £100,000 in exchange for the group's remaining part of the group without the involvement of a partner.

Mr Deliege told the court the Belgian company, which has been under court-controlled management since September, has assets of 1,500m francs and debts totaling at least 1,450m francs. Final figures still had to be worked out.

One of the first new cars to be fitted with Denovo will be Leyland's new £250m Mini. The absence of a spare wheel will give the new car a much-needed increase in boot space.

Clifford Webb

400 Courtaulds jobs to go in yarn plant closure

By Christopher Wilkins

Courtaulds, which is involved in negotiations to close one of its main nylon producing plants at Aintree, Liverpool, is closing a yarn processing plant in Nuneaton which employs 400.

After the formation last month of a joint consultancy committee, including union representatives, Courtaulds has given notice of closure to all the workers under the 90-day notice procedure. The factory will be closed by the end of February, but Courtaulds is hopeful of finding work for about 100 people at nearby plants.

Closure has become necessary because the plant has been overtaken by technology and its

problems have been aggravated by the fibres recession and substantial over-capacity.

In a statement accompanying its half year results yesterday, Courtaulds gave a warning that "the future of some operations remains under review". It is presently seeking a Temporary Employment Subsidy at its Aintree plant, where more than 2,000 are employed, but has said that without the subsidy it will be forced to cut back.

The group reported profits up from £21.8m to £27.9m, but noted that, although results for the second half could show some improvement over the first, the results for the full year are expected to fall short of 1976/77. Courtaulds shares fell 3p after the news to 309.

Financial Editor, page 27

Oil starts flowing from the Claymore field

Another oilfield in the British sector of the North Sea came on stream yesterday. The oil was flowing from the Claymore field, 60 miles north-east of Aberdeen—the fastest developed major field so far according to Occidental Petroleum.

It announced that oil was now flowing from a production platform to the Flora terminal in the Orkney Islands. "Six of the planned 36 wells have been completed at Claymore to date, and production by the end of 1977 is expected to be between 60,000 and 80,000 barrels a day, increasing to around 160,000 barrels a day by early 1979," a statement said.

Consultants have estimated the reserves of recoverable oil from the Claymore field at 410 million barrels. The operator, has a 36.5 per cent interest, Getty Oil (Britain) 23.5 per cent, Allied Chemical (GB) 20 per cent and Thomson North Sea 20 per cent.

Leyland to close its London HQ

British Leyland is to close its headquarters in Marylebone Road, London, and move many of the staff to the offices of Leyland Cars and Leyland International in the Midlands.

A phased shutdown will be announced today by Mr Michael Edwards, the executive chairman. He will also outline a new corporate structure and name the boards of the four operating subsidiaries.

More detailed changes affecting the main problem areas—Leyland Cars—will be dealt with at a later date. There are expected to be some notable omissions from the new board of Leyland Cars, which Mr Edwards will chair himself.

Placed executives are being earmarked for new responsibilities in the sub divisions which, it is understood, will be created later to cover small cars, medium cars, large specialist

and sports cars and parts and servicing.

It is also expected that Mr John McKay, Mr Edwards' former public relations chief at Chrysler and now his personal assistant, will assume responsibilities for the whole of the group's public relations.

Closure of the Marylebone office block has been mooted since it became known within the company that most of Leyland International's 300 staff were preparing to move to new headquarters adjoining Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. International's European division is already established there.

In London Mr Edwards will run the corporation from the much smaller Nuffield House in Piccadilly. He has taken over

The Times index: 206.02 - 2.51

The FT index: 487.9 - 8.8

THE POUND

Bank buys Bank sells

Australia \$ 1.66 1.61

Austria Sch 30.75 28.75

Belgium Fr 66.50 63.50

Canada \$ 2.06 2.01

Denmark Kr 11.45 11.05

Finland Mkk 7.80 7.55

France Fr 9.00 8.76

Germany Dm 4.25 4.04

Greece Dr 76.75 72.55

Hong Kong \$ 8.50 8.35

Italy L 1630.00 1575.00

Japan Yn 470.00 445.00

Netherlands Gld 4.52 4.36

Norway Kr 10.25 9.90

Portugal Esc 78.00 74.00

S Africa Rd 1.76 1.64

Spain Pes 157.00 151.00

Sweden Kr 9.00 8.85

Switzerland Fr 4.15 3.96

US \$ 1.56 1.51

Yugoslavia Dnr 39.00 36.25

Notes: For small denominations, bank notes only apply to sterling currency. Bankers' rates apply to foreign currencies and other foreign currencies.

Gold fell \$4 an ounce to \$161.375.

SDR-5 was 1.18003 on Monday

while SDR-6 was 0.649250.

Commodities: Renter's index was at 1473.9 (previous 1463.7).

The effective exchange rate index was at 63.7.

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Britain agrees terms of Polish ships deal

By Our Industrial Staff

Agreement on the details of a £115m Anglo-Polish shipbuilding contract has been reached and the formal signing is expected to take place in London next week.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, is expected to sign the contract on behalf of the Government. The deal will provide Britain's depressed shipyards with orders for 24 ships.

Negotiations on the contract have been prolonged because of hard bargaining over the Polish share of equipment for the ships. Originally this was to be 5 per cent of the total but now is believed to be nearer 8 per cent.

Mr Michael Casey, chief executive of British Shipbuilders, who has conducted the negotiations with the Poles, returned to the United Kingdom last week encouraged by the progress made in reaching agreement.

Among the sticking points has been the responsibility for supplying engines for the ships.

Agreement now appears to have been reached on the basis that none of the propulsion units for the larger vessels in the contract will be made in Poland and most of those for the smaller ships will be built in the United Kingdom under licence.

The deal is being subsidised by a grant of almost £30m from the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund.

The Poles have also been offered 70 per cent credit, the remainder to be arranged by individual shipbuilders.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Downgrading at Courtaulds

Trading results from Courtaulds are profoundly disturbing for the equity market. In July it was the first of the international majors to warn that profits and export prospects in particular were feeling much more of a squeeze than City analysts appreciated. Since then a steady flow of disappointing results have borne out Courtaulds' pessimism, and analysts have duly taken the axe to their profit forecasts. Now they may have to do so again.

Six months ago outside projections for Courtaulds' profits this year were as high as £130m. After the warnings estimates were downgraded to around £100m and, with the pound still strengthening, they have latterly been lowered again to around £85m-£90m. It is clear that even these forecasts are too high. Courtaulds' first half results have duly achieved the company's own projection with a 28 per cent improvement to £27.9m. But much of the increase reflects closures from the previous year, and Courtaulds says "the results for the full year are expected to fall short of 1976-77", when it made £80.9m, left the market talking in terms of £60-£70m.



Sir Arthur Knight, chairman of Courtaulds.

There are good reasons why a simple line cannot be drawn through the results to those of other internationally-orientated companies. The fibres industry suffers outstandingly from overcapacity and depressed markets, and Courtaulds' brand of low margin, high volume operations are more vulnerable than many to even a modest strengthening of the pound.

The inescapable fact, however, is that, after a splendid showing last year, first half volume sales overseas, including exports, were lower than in the first six months of last year, even though Courtaulds is increasing market share virtually everywhere it sells. In such circumstances it is understandably keeping its new investment down to a minimum (at £27m in the first half spending was £5.9m below the depreciation charge) and is containing the rise in working capital as tightly as it can until profits revive.

Courtaulds' performance thus underlines just how slack the demand from European markets really is, which must raise new questions for the profitability of other companies like ICI. As for Courtaulds' shares, at 109p they have underperformed the market by close to 50 per cent in the last 18 months, and with a yield of almost 10 per cent may at last begin to attract cheap buying.

Insurance

Royal steadies nerves

Excellent third quarter results from Royal Insurance yesterday helped to steady nerves in the composite insurance sector following Monday's £74m cash call from Commercial Union.

Having dipped more than 10p at one point Royal closed just 2p lower last night at 393p after news of almost doubled pre-tax profits of £103.9m in the first nine months and a categorical denial from the group that it had even considered following CU's rights exercise.

By way of justification Royal points to the way it has managed to accommodate premium growth of almost 20 per cent to £936m, while managing to push the solvency ratio up a couple of points to around 44 per cent helped by a 26 per cent improvement in investment income to £83m.

Moreover, underwriting results have swung from a deficit of £14.9m to a surplus

of £17.8m helped by a significant improvement in the United States—where the operating ratio is now 101.4 against 105.6 a year ago—though the deficit there is still nearly £9m, and a substantial improvement in the United Kingdom to almost £13m partly due to the absence of major storms.

However there are still some question marks not least in Canada, where the group has so far decided not to make provisions for potential refunds to policyholders under anti-inflation rules. Although a nine-month surplus of £13m should be cut back to around £9m as a result of the traditionally bleak fourth quarter forced refunds may yet make a deep hole in 1978 results. At the same time Royal as the leading United Kingdom commercial fire insurer is more vulnerable than most to the firmers' dispute.

Meanwhile despite Royal's statements, the market is bound to remain deeply suspicious that the group will take advantage of a funding opportunity before the underwriting cycle begins to top out towards the end of next year.

Though with a flood of CU paper the market will presumably ignore Royal's attractions—likely profits of around £130m pre-tax for a p/e ratio of under 8 and a prospective yield of almost 6 per cent.

Chloride

Strike damage

British Leyland's new chairman, Mr Michael Edwards, leaves Chloride's chair after what he admits has been a "shocking" year. Profits are £7.22m pre-tax, against outside expectations ranging as high as £12m for the first half.

A nine-week strike at two British factories cost £3m in profit but more disturbingly Chloride ran into problems in the United States—where profits were down by £1.5m, due to tough price competition and management problems, apparently now resolved. Nevertheless, Chloride has gained a contract to supply Ford with 10 per cent of the original batteries in the United States, and there was only a minor contribution from this in the first half. Margins are of course tight on such business, but it may give Chloride a useful cache in the United States replacement market.

Chloride will need growth in excess of 20 per cent in the second half to match last year's profit and that appears to be asking for too much even with the United Kingdom dispute settled. So a prospective yield of just under 8 per cent with the share at 99p, and, at best, a p/e ratio of 10 leaves little to

At the nine month stage trading at Philips Lamp is about as resilient as could be expected in the light of the state of the international economy. But the real spanner in the works so far as earnings are concerned is the strength of the guilder.

Thus volume sales are some 7 per cent ahead at £121.9m although there have been some slackening in the third quarter for industrial supplies. Consumer products have been dull although a better performance in North America, the United Kingdom (which perhaps helps to explain the group's seemingly odd behaviour over "Electronic Rentals"), France and Spain has offset a downturn in the rest of western Europe. But the strength of the guilder has trimmed back the sales gain to only 2 per cent.

Even so with further staff rationalization and stock adjustments net profit after nine months is up from £135m to £143m but the group warns that earlier hopes of an increase in profits as a percentage of sales depends on end-year currency adjustments.

For the full year, Philips looks as though it should make around £160m net profit for earnings on the Philips accounting basis of around £14, although somewhat lower on a United States accounting basis. Even with no increase in last year's £11.6 dividend the yield at £127 is still a healthy enough 6 per cent for European investors. But the shares have done nothing either in Amsterdam or London all year despite superficially attractive ratings and there is still nothing to get excited about at Philips in the immediate outlook.

Yesterday the British Steel Corporation lost well over £10m. Today it will be the same, and tomorrow likewise.

In its present financial year its losses are now running at a rate of £10m a week.

It is against the background of panic talks with steel unions that on Thursday of next week Sir Charles Villiers, the chairman, is to present the state-owned corporation's half-yearly results.

Some agonizing decisions confront the Government. Mass sackings and a massacre of an already postponed investment programme are threatened in this new year of the Government's capacity to undertake the unpleasant. The facts of British Steel's financial plight are a stark reality and it is cold consolation that other steel makers around the world are racked by problems, too.

Whatever the international dimensions of these problems, and there is no lack of diplomatic activity at the highest levels—something has to be done about British Steel. The corporation is now plundering its borrowed money to pay men's wages in order to produce steel at a loss of £23 for every ton.

The situation is sufficiently desperate for the Department of Industry to be drafting a new Iron and Steel Bill for the present session. This emergency measure is all the more alarming in that Parliament agreed under four months ago to limit the limit on the corporation's debt from £3,000m to £4,000m.

At that time MPs were incorrectly advised by ministers that the debt would be paid off by the end of the year. Presumably, the Government will now be forced to increase its cash limit for steel.

If a standstill order against steel already accounts for a tenth of the national borrowing requirement—Sir Charles will have no choice but to undertake savage changes in next year's investment programme.

Stripped of normal Whitehall pretence, British Steel is bankrupt, supported only by massive external borrowings and its statutory powers. Since April it has had no financial target and little prospect of breaking even in 1978-79, given no sign of any upturn in demand and little prospect of economic pricing while Europe, the United States and Japan squabble over competitive imports.

In 1975-76 British Steel had a breathtaking loss of £225m, but soothing words indicated that it would break even in the following year. The eventual result was a £95m loss, which would have been far greater but for last minute economies.

In April the corporation was allocating £2,285m against statutory limits of £3,000m on borrowing and by the summer it was being given more head room with an extension to £4,000m. Confidential figures indicated that by April 1978, the corporation would have £3,200m of outstanding statutory borrowing, but it was expecting to generate sufficient internal resources next year to reach its new ceiling of £4,000 before 1979.

A decision to bring forward a new borrowing powers Bill implies both a miscalculation of a standstill order against steel and the corporation pile up debt in the hope of better times to come. Parliament will not stand for this and that is why an emergency measure is being introduced by Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, who has already allowed British Leyland to borrow capital to meet wage bills in the motor industry.

The taxpayer is deeply involved, for the Government has adopted the principle of supplying public dividend capital at the rate of 55 per cent of the

Maurice Corina

Steel: decisions that cannot be put off

'There is no reason why heavy investment cannot continue, if it is realistic in terms of future capacity and supported by accelerated closures'

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The taxpayer is deeply involved, for the Government has adopted the principle of supplying public dividend capital at the rate of 55 per cent of the

corporation's medium and long-term borrowing, which include subventions from the National Loans Fund. The taxpayer is entitled not only to question what return he is getting for the so-called equity type of Treasury funding (BSC is supposed to pay dividends from its profits), but also to challenge the corporation's ability to perform.

Capital raised internally over its 10-year life is not much over £1600m and certainly in the past few years losses have exceeded depreciation alone by more than 100m. At the same time market share has been lost over this period.

Out-of-date plans are also being kept open longer, thanks to the Beveridge review, than economically justified, at a cost of £60m plus per year. Some £1,000m in the next few years will be used up in modernization projects that can earn no revenue for some time, yet add greatly to interest charges.

The justification for this last point is, of course, the need to put the industry into better shape to compete, using more efficient and well sited mills and back-up facilities. Somehow, British Steel has to keep spending on capital projects while the many unions, understandably, resist drastic downsizing given the present unemployment.

But when and how the industry will be reorganized—its labour strength is said to be 60,000 higher than required

for low cost steel-making—remains a baffling question. Even before the urgent review now taking place in Whitehall some £500m had to be pruned for 1977-78 and 1978-79 off investment programmes which in the next five years are scheduled to cost £3,600m.

An original 10-year modernization blueprint has a 15-year one, and the production target of 35,000,000 metric tonnes of steel has been revised to 30,000,000 tonnes. Last year the corporation sold 20,000,000 tonnes, with a break-even target of 24,000,000 tonnes, in a depressed market.

The world recession is continuing longer than steel manufacturers round the globe expected and clearly the Government is entitled to ask both British Steel and its unions to review the realism of present planning and the huge costs of maintaining uneconomic plant. Such a review will need to look at capacity, for Europe is now operating at only 60 per cent of present capacity and the United States at 80 per cent (the figure is falling) while Japan, at 70 per cent, has taken counter-measures to safeguard its hyper-efficient industry's potential.

Of course, British Steel's difficulties must be seen against a worldwide crisis that cries out for international action before protectionism, now rearing its head in the United States, breaks out. Britain's steel losses per tonne are not so bad, say, as for the Sidmar plant of Cock-

erills in Belgium (where McKinsey, the management consultants, are busy) or the Saccor and Usinor mills in France.

In Germany, big losses are being made and Iraldiser's difficulties in Italy are well known. Bothheim in the United States is in a bad way.

Nonetheless, British Steel's finances and manpower cannot be attributed solely to problems beyond its control. Japan has just shut down her last two open hearths, for example, while British Steel is now refurbishing three at Shotton for £4m or so. Offers by unions to cooperate in cost-saving exercises have proved of little consequence, if helpful.

The point has been reached where closures and restructuring decisions by unions as well as management have to be taken. There is no reason why heavy investment cannot continue, if it is obviously realistic in terms of future capacity and supported by accelerated closures.

Working out the details imposes a duty on the unions to well as the management and the Government to safeguard British steel-making for an eventual revival in demand.

But British steel does not mean defending every obsolescent and precariously repressed plant out of blind loyalty to union members. It does mean active help in working new plant and systems, which have an obvious future. In this, Sheffield has a better record than South Wales.

Mr Bill Sims, chairman of the TUC steel industry committee and leader of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the biggest union, is confronted with an offer of generous redundancy compensation for shutting 12 "Bewick" plants kept going after the last review led by Lord Bewick, then a minister. The sting is that British Steel wants to press on with "re-loading" its mills and other works.

Mr Sims' orders go to the most economic facilities. That implies that more than just Bewick plants would close.

Into this situation will step Mr Varley and an early statement has become vital before speculation becomes too wild and the attitudes of men faced with renewed uncertainty about their jobs harden into damaging confrontation.

Hydro-electric projects put life in S America's heart

Last month Argentina and Paraguay agreed to co-operate on a \$70m (about £38.5m) for preliminary infrastructure work on a \$275m hydro-electric dam spanning the island of Yacaré and the rapid of Apipé. It is about halfway across the stretch of the river, Paraná which forms part of their common frontier.

Work will start in the new year. By 1983 the 20 turbines of the binational Yacaré-Apipé will be generating a total of 2,700 MW, rivaling Argentina's total energy output last year.

The project is part of the Argentine military government's 10-year energy programme costing \$20,000m and raising output to more than 11,000 MW by 1985. Some \$9,500m are earmarked for oil development, \$8,200m for hydro and nuclear security, and \$2,300m for natural gas and coal. But hydro-electric development is the top priority and the overall intention is a steady switch to renewable energy resources.

Sixteen hydro-electric projects are due for completion by 1985. Three are almost ready and seven other under construction include a 1,620 MW project with Uruguay at Salto Grande on the River Uruguay, to start generating in 1979.

But Yacaré-Apipé holds pride of place. Plans for it have been gathering dust since 1925 and its rapid construction will be a token that Argentina's decades of self-doubt and stagnation are over.

It is a geo-political undertaking of great importance in developing the tropical heartland of South America and challenging Brazil's growing political and economic power in the region.

Brazil is already exploiting the middle Paraná. At Itaipu, just 220 miles upstream from Yacaré-Apipé and 10 miles from the Argentine frontier, it is building the world's largest hydro-electric complex with Paraguay.

Itaipu dwarfs Yacaré-Apipé. It is a \$7,000m 12,700 MW project and the first of its 18 giant turbines will start generating in 1983. Brazil cited "absolute sovereignty" and went ahead with a project vital to offset its giant oil import bill.

Only emergency diplomacy by the new Argentine government recently persuaded Brazil to discuss "harmonization" of the projects. A decision is expected by the end of the year and the future of Corpus depends upon it.

Argentina hopes that Brazil will accept a nearly full-scale Corpus and a somewhat reduced Itaipu compensated for with cash or energy. This

way, the Argentines believe, the 280-mile stretch of the Paraná can be exploited to its maximum, for the benefit of all three states, through four mutually repowering dams.

If this occurs, the three countries could squeeze at least 20,000MW of fairly cheap renewable energy out of its middle Paraná.

Maximum development is particularly in Paraguay's interest as partner in each of the projected dams. While Brazil or Argentina provide the finance and know-how, Paraguay will own half the energy and its future largely depends on exporting this.

It was a hopeful sign that Paraguay recently refused Brazil's request to switch its national grid from its 50 hertz cycle to Brazil's 60 hertz. Brazil will now have to install half Itaipu's 18 turbines at 50 hertz and the rest at 60, leaving Paraguay free to export some

of its energy to Argentina, Uruguay and Bolivia at 50 hertz.

Had Paraguay doubted Argentina's decision and ability to build Corpus and Yacaré-Apipé it would probably not have defied Brazil. Brazil itself long refused to listen to Argentina's protests about Itaipu because of scepticism about its southern neighbour's seriousness. But the military government's stance on Yacaré-Apipé and its arguments for rational exploitation of the Paraná may be changing all that.

As a result, there is now a strong possibility that the heart of South America will be transformed into a major energy producer and development area and that Argentina will start rediscovering the path to development and progress from which it wandered a generation ago.—Heuser.

Andrew Tarnowski

COURTAULDS

Interim Profit and Dividend

The Board has declared an interim dividend in respect of the 1977/78 year amounting to 2.178p per 25p Ordinary Share of which 0.070p per Share is in respect of profits earned in the year to March 1977, and arises from the reduction in the rate of A.C.T. This dividend, together with the imputed tax credit amounts to 3.754p (1976-77 3.317p) and will be paid on 13th January 1978 to the Ordinary Shareholders registered in the books of the Company as at the close of business on 15th November 1977. The cost of the interim dividend after deducting A.C.T. is £6.8m (1976-77 £5.5m).

Unaudited results for the first six months of the 1977/78 financial year are:-

1st Half 1976/77		1st Half 1977/78
£m		£m
692.4	Total Sales to External Customers	786.3
315.1	Sales to U.K. Customers	378.0
178.6	Exports from United Kingdom	203.1
53.1	Trading Surplus	60.6
31.3	Depreciation	22.9
21.8	Profit before Taxation	27.9
	Less: Taxation	
3.8	U.K. (Including A.C.T. £3.5m - 1976/77 £3.3m not immediately recoverable)	3.4
4.0	Overseas	4.4
7.8		8.3
1.0		19.6
4.6	Less: Minority Shareholders' Interest	3.4
9.4	Courtaulds Shareholders' Interest	16.2
0.1	Less: Preference Dividends	0.1
9.3	Courtaulds Ordinary Shareholders' Interest	16.1

Changes in the sterling value of overseas net assets will be dealt with in the year end accounts. At the exchange rates applicable on 30th September, 1977 there was a deficit of £6m.

U.K. sales volume increased marginally, but the volume of sales overseas, including exports, was lower than in the first six months of last year. Trading results are in line with those forecast in July, and reflected last year's closure of some activities which had been making losses.

£27m was spent on new fixed assets and £35m on increased working capital. Cash resources were reduced by £17m compared with £85m during the same period last year.

Trading conditions remain difficult both at home and overseas, and export results continue to be affected adversely by the increased external value of sterling. The future of some operations remains under review. There are other uncertainties, including the possibility of further industrial disruption in pursuit of pay claims not justified by increased productivity.

For these reasons, although trading results for the second half could show some improvement over those of the first six months, the results for the full year are expected to fall short of 1976/77.

Courtaulds, Limited
18 Hanover Square
London W1A 2BB
C. J. Cornwall
Secretary
15th November 1977

Business Diary: Unaccustomed as we are...

Ross Davies, Business Diary's Editor, is in Brighton for the first national conference of the CBI. Here is his concluding report.

Perhaps as much to their own surprise as anybody else's, CBI president Lord Watkinson and his director general John Methven find that with this first conference they have a success on their hands.

Although nobody is officially saying so, what was this year a try-out looks like being from now on an annual event. Alex Jarratt, a CBI council member and chairman of Reed International, was hinting as much yesterday.

The turn-out of about 1,300 delegates (200 more were said to have cancelled because of prolonged pay negotiations or labour disputes) and 250 or so observers put the CBI conference at a stroke into the same logistical class as its model, the TUC's gathering.

Press, radio and television coverage was wide (although a few political correspondents turned up, as they do for the TUC) and would have been wider, were it not for the firmers' strike and Princess Anne's baby.

So dazzled were the delegates by the national attention that the conference offered that by and large the internal checks in the CBI were kept papered over. Tom Lyon, chairman of the often wayward smaller firms committee, for instance, was notably conciliatory to Lord Watkinson in his speech yesterday.

Business people are not as used as the politicians and the trade unionists to all this exposure, but having rubbed their eyes after stepping into



Not so many are called: NFBE's Peter Morley (centre) sits out with fellow delegates Peter Trew (left) and Richard Amis at the CBI conference in Brighton yesterday.

the spotlight there is little doubt that they like what they see.

Peter Morley is one man for whom the conference was less than a success. He thinks the CBI's managers muffed a great opportunity publicly to slam Labour's proposals for further nationalization.

Morley, chairman of Unit Construction and president of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, was to be called to speak in the "Set Business Free" debate to remind delegates that in that same hall recently the Labour Party conference accepted the national executive committee's proposals for nationalizing the construction industry.

He was not called, however, and had to scrap a speech in which he gave warning that the proposal could soon be in a Labour Party manifesto as we

move towards the next general election.

Morley told me that the CBI had already got off on the wrong foot in Brighton because the document upon which the debates centred, *Britain Means Business 1977*, mentioned Labour's proposals for nationalizing the pharmaceuticals, insurance and banking industries, but not construction.

Construction, he said, was the biggest of the lot, being the largest employer of men in industry and second only to engineering in terms of turnover.

What he and the many other construction delegates here fear is that, when it comes to horse-trading between the Cabinet and the national executive, the Cabinet might use construction to the NEC in return for letting one of the others, possibly banks, off the hook.

The CBI conference, Morley told me, would have been the

perfect platform from which to launch a nationalization campaign of the NFBE, a founder-member of the confederation.

If sadder, Morley is also a wiser man and swears that he will see that next time when he gets closer to the CBI's conference managers.

I asked one eminent survivor of many a Tory Party conference whether he thought that the CBI had made a success of Brighton. He preferred not to be named, he said, because he did not wish to be thought a meddler, although I thought it was partly due to the politician's innate love of cosy "unattributable" chats.

Given that this was a first conference, he told me, Brighton had been "a definite success". It had given publicity and credibility to what business people thought was needed if there was going to be the wealth to pursue social aims.

He surprised me by saying that he thought that one and a half days was long enough, although his reason was not so much that it would have been hard to fill any more time with speakers and subjects, but because that was about as much as top people could take off.

He even surprised the preference decision not to debate individual motions and said that little came of them when they were perimined at party conferences.

"What I do think is lacking, however," he said, "and it's not surprising. It's the first conference, it's atmosphere. It's all rather artificial, with not enough personal views."

"I'm sure there are lots of idiosyncratic views here, but we're not hearing them."

In time, he went on, the CBI would get to know who were the natural speakers, and their deployment would help liven up audiences at future conferences.

The *Britain Means Business 1977* document, upon which the conference is based, was "impressive". As it would probably need updating, rather than complete revision, for future conferences, it might be that future editions would "pick out the smaller bits and put them under the microscope".

One of the undoubted stars of the CBI conference was Michael Edwards, the new British Leyland chairman, who seems to be popping up all over the place these days. Yesterday he unveiled the "shocking performance"—his own words—put up by Chloride in its latest half year. Pre-tax profits were down from £10.8m to £7.2m. Edwards would have handed over the posts of chairman and chief executive of Chloride before the figures were published, had they been any good. As it was, he felt he should hang on. "If you are going to give anybody any stick it should be me," he explained. As it was Chloride's day he tried not to say anything about British Leyland, where a major board and senior executive reshuffle is expected soon, but did not quite succeed.

He commented: "I don't propose to travel very much. I expect to stay in my office a lot of the time. I don't intend to spend much time in offices and factories because the problems are here in London."

Edwards implied that he would be back at Chloride as chairman once his British Leyland stint was over. "I don't see British Leyland as a career," he said.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Day of company upsets prompts heavy selling

Concern over company profits reappeared as a major drag on sentiment and was mainly responsible for widespread selling which centred on the industrial leaders.

With investors continuing to be unsettled by labour doubts and the stagnant state of industrial production the FT index lost 11.7 by 2 pm to reach its low point of the session. There was little respite in late trading and the index was still 11.8 off at 487.9 by the close.

Of particular concern on the profits front were the profits from Courtauld, which dipped 3p to 109p, below par figures from Chloride 4p lower at 99p, and the profits setback at Wheatheaf, which hit the shares no less than 38p to 180p and cast a shadow over the whole food retailing sector.

A subdued session in the gilt market saw long dated gilts in a range between three and eight and half a point while shorter maturities waited until after hours trading to edge upward.

The City's caution on both Courtauld and Chloride were mentioned in this column recently.

The Courtauld figures also gave rise to renewed doubts about ICI's figures, due soon, with the shares dipping a comparatively modest 4p to 365p. Unilever, with figures due this week, lost just a couple of pence to 564p but Glaxo, which lost 10p to 587p and additionally affected by the lack of any dividend news accompanying this week's United States acquisition.

Issues to fall heavily in food retailing were Lifford 10p to 178p, Associated Dairies 11p to 257p, Bejam 4p to 71p, Kwik Save 12p to 218p and Nurdin & Peacock 5p to 198p.

In sympathy with Chloride a 3p fall to 165p was recorded by Ever Ready while elsewhere in the sector Lucas slipped 15p to 265p on its labour problems and a chart "sell" recommendation.

Though most interest centred on results there was also some activity on the takeover and speculative front.

South Osborn 7p to 75p and Welf Group 4p to 118p lost ground waiting for further details of their mergers plan while speculative demand breathed life into Federated Chemical 4p to 69p, Sensa Sugar 34p to 111p, Farness Wilby 4p to 338p, Hunting Gibson 10p to 250p, and Glanfield Securities 13p to 288p.

A factory sale boosted John Bright to 35p but by the end of trading the price had returned to its overnight 33p. The big engineering groups were not immune to the retreat with GKN losing 10p to 266p after some adverse comment and Tube Investments lower by the same amount to 388p. Back in foods Paterson Zochonis dipped 10p to 200p after the chairman's warning on profits.

Oil featured Stebens which again sprang to life with a rise of 10p to 282p but BP reacted from the strength of recent days losing 15p for a close of 855p.

Among financial the clearing banks were all lower by 10p with Barclays at 330p, Lloyds 270p, National Westminster

270p and Midland 365p. Insurances were supported by better than expected figures from Royal which ended just 2p off 385p after being as much as 12p lower at one stage. Commercial Union continued to lose ground after its big cash call and by the end had dipped another 4p to 136p.

A big seller of Woolworth was reported ahead of today's nine months figures. Some of the nervousness can be attributed to the shadow cast by Wheatheaf but market hopes are pitched no higher than £21.5m against £22.9m. The shares lost 11p to 61p.

In properties, Town Centre Securities were firm ahead of figures, due today, which are expected to be bullish.

After hours leading shares tended to go a little firmer and insurances and banks recouped the odd penny or so. Gold shares lost a little more and Farm Feeds dropped 8p to 37p after its interim trading loss.

Equity turnover on November 14 was £68.5m (14,270 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were Reed International, BP, GKN, ICI, BAT Dfd, and Ind, English Chinas Glays, GEC, P & O, Betcham, Grand Metropolitan, Commercial Union, Welf Group, Tube Investments, Tate & Lyle, Lucas, Royal Insurance, Furness Withy, Philips Lamps and Wheatheaf.

Shares in Samuel Osborn fell 7p to 75p yesterday as nervousness grew that the bid talks would be abandoned. In fact the bid is still continuing. The selling was not knowledgeable and though the bid length of time has elapsed the bid has not been easy, a deal is still firmly on the cards.

The City's caution on both Courtauld and Chloride were mentioned in this column recently.

The Courtauld figures also gave rise to renewed doubts about ICI's figures, due soon, with the shares dipping a comparatively modest 4p to 365p. Unilever, with figures due this week, lost just a couple of pence to 564p but Glaxo, which lost 10p to 587p and additionally affected by the lack of any dividend news accompanying this week's United States acquisition.

Issues to fall heavily in food retailing were Lifford 10p to 178p, Associated Dairies 11p to 257p, Bejam 4p to 71p, Kwik Save 12p to 218p and Nurdin & Peacock 5p to 198p.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
list or fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Aberdeen Inv (1)	0.04(0.03)	0.15(0.15)	7.46(7.38)	0.9(0.8)	—	(2.0)
Acorn Secs (F)	—	25.6(19.7)	11.42(8.56)	3.02(2.75)	9/1	(7.7.75)
Chloride Cons (1)	134.0(121.5)	7.4(5.6)	2.4(1.8)	—	6/1	(4.6)
Courtauld	786.3(692.4)	27.9(21.8)	2.07(1.91)	2.4(2.15)	—	(6.6)
External Inv (1)	—	0.20(0.18)	2.25(1.65)	2.25(1.65)	—	4.50(3.75)
Farm Feeds (1)	4.09(2.28)	0.03(0.03)	—	—	—	(3.7)
GEI Int (1)	22.7(17.2)	2.0(1.5)	1.45(1.3)	—	—	(3.7)
Gl Portland (1)	—	1.9(2.1)	1.0(1.0)	—	2/2	(3.9)
LCP Hldgs (1)	63.4(50.9)	2.1(2.0)	6.5(6.5)	2.0(1.4)	6/1	(4.2)
L. & N. (1)	2.8(2.2)	0.36(0.25)	1.25(1.75)	—	—	(1.60)
Philips Lamps (1)	7.6(4.0)	289.0	—	—	—	(14.7)
Royal Inv (1)	—	105.9(53.1)	48(22.5)	1.25(1.02)	11/1	2.05(1.65)
Stockholders (F)	—	2.0(1.8)	2.39(1.73)	3.5(2.5)	—	(5.3)
Wheatheaf Dist (1)	216.3(170.1)	1.5(2.4)	4.7(7.7)	1.6(1.4)	8/13	(2.8)
Young Brewery (1)	8.7(7.2)	0.84(0.85)	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a. Gullfords. b. Forecasts. c. Loss.

James Halstead chairman in cheerful mood

It looks as if things are on the mend at Manchester-based James Halstead (Holdings), which is in plastics, clothing and food. The chairman, James Halstead, said the company was "marked improvement" in profitability.

The markets in which Halstead trades continued to be buoyant. But the expected improvement in profits would have taken place save for a serious setback in the performance of one subsidiary, B.M. Coating, which suffered a substantial trading loss.

There has been a complete reorganization of management, and Mr Halstead is confident there will be a dramatic improvement in B.M.'s performance in the current year.

The claim brought by a former director has been withdrawn on payment of his legal costs.

Mr J. S. Leach reports in his annual statement that since his appointment as chairman he has found it difficult for many reasons, to be optimistic about the short-run, although he has always been confident about the longer-run.

However, he now believes the group has the opportunity to make progress. Management changes make him confident of substantial benefits, and of a "marked improvement" in profitability.

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GEI heading for £5m margins up

Engineering group GEI International is heading for profits of nearly £5m this year.

Booned by an improving home market and an increase in exports, turnover rose by 32 per cent to £22.7m in the six months to September 30. Pre-tax profits showed an even larger gain. They jumped from £1.5m to £2m, widening pre-tax margins by half a point to 9.1 per cent.

Mr Thomas Kenny, chairman, reports that outstanding orders are more than a third higher than a year ago. In volume terms, this is equivalent to an increase of around 25 per cent.

Much of the improvement reflected a five-year capital spending programme. Around £7m is to go on extending capacity and £1.75m has already been spent.

The group has also concentrated on improving exports. Around 12 per cent of total turnover goes directly overseas but, rising in the first six months to 16 per cent, this figure rises to 60 per cent.

The second half year, in which the group traditionally makes the larger share of its profits, has started well. An upturn at home particularly for the steel division should give the group an added fillip.

And group managing director Mr John Sewell reports that October was the best month for the group in a long time.

Mr Leonard Philby, the chairman, says that the group's investment in Triphos (North-east), which makes tricalcium phosphate, continues to cause grave concern to the directors. He promises to report fully on this at the annual meeting.

In the last accounts the Auditors were unable to say whether the group's investment in Triphos was fairly stated at £347,000, or whether a liability would arise under a guarantee.

The formal offer from Black Diamonds Pensions, owned by National Coal Board Pensions Funds, for British Investment Trust has been posted. BIT has already rejected the terms. Black Diamonds and NCB Pensions, advised by S. G. Warburg, say that they believe the ordinary terms are "generous and attractive", and that the market value of the BIT ordinary shares is significantly higher than it would be without an offer.

The board of Malton Investment Trust has decided to recommend that the company be placed in members' voluntary liquidation. Its net asset value a share at October 31 amounted to 501.56p before allowing for the cost of liquidation and other contingencies.

The board thinks that shareholders will receive not less than 490p per share and a first distribution of not less than 400p a share is expected to be made within one month of liquidation.

Yearling coupon down

Having reached 7 per cent last week the coupon on local authority bonds is down again to 6½ per cent. The biggest borrowers are Southwark and Birmingham with £2m each while Brighton is raising £1m.

By order of the board
D. S. BOOTH
secretary

15 November 1977

Charter Cons up to mark with a 20 pc first-half rise

By Desmond Quigley

Charter Consolidated, the United Kingdom mining finance house, has matched market expectations with a 20 per cent pre-tax profit increase from £19.7m to £23.6m for the six months to September 30. In fact, the performance was somewhat better than many expected since the share of profits from MK Refrigeration, taken over earlier this year, has not been included.

Given the changes in the group's holdings over the last year, the profits make-up has changed somewhat, but never the less the group, which is effectively the United Kingdom arm of the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, looks set for a full year profit increase of about the same magnitude.

There are, however, still worries as to the extent of any below-the-line write-offs that may be needed, although, if there are any, they should be a long way short of last year's £9.4m.

Income from Charter's major investments showed a £2.2m gain to £10.96m, which reflects the extra dividend under the Anglo American-Rand Selection merger, while Rio Tinto-Zinc boosted its dividend having gone through the "lumpsum

gap". Selection Trust, in which Charter has a 28.8 per cent stake, also paid out more as a result of the rights issue last year.

Total investment income, however, only rose by £652,000 to £11.8m, but this in the main reflects the fact that the Malaysian interests have been re-organized and are now part of New Trade Winds.

The changed status of the Minors "A" shares, and the problems that have confronted that company are also reflected in the decline in the income from associated companies.

Since MK has not been included the trading profits of the group more or less marked time at £9.47m.

There was a sharp jump in share-dealing profits to £2.66m. Costs have been kept under a tight rein and prospecting expenditure has been further reduced reflecting Charter's changing role.

The interim dividend has been increased to 4.383p from 4.231p gross.

Mr Murray Hofmeyr, chairman of Charter Consolidated.

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Gt Portland up 34 pc at half-time

By Michael Clark

Great Portland Estates with offices, showrooms and shops mainly in the West End and City of London, reports a rise of 34 per cent in pre-tax revenue to £19.6m for the six months to September 30.

Gross rental income rose slightly from £3.5m to £3.9m and the directors have declared an interim dividend unchanged at 1.51p. The revenue available for appropriation amounted to £10.4m compared with £7.6m for the corresponding period. This includes an amount equal to the net outgoings for the half-year attributable to properties in the course of development of £3,000 against £32,000.

The group has charged to re-raise revenue the sum of £37,000 compared with £344,000 for exceptional repairs from the refurbishment of buildings and £393,000 on other work.

Results of Great Portland for the full year to March 31, saw pre-tax profits hit by an exceptional charge of £1.1m on that year's rise only slightly to £2.67m. Flanking mosaic at the group's 190,000 sq ft Kneller House office block in Cranford contributed £333,000 to the exceptional charge along with an £871,000 refurbishment charge. Gross rentals however rose by £1m to £7.2m.

The share lost 4p to 292p yesterday.

Wheatheaf undermined

By Alison Mitchell

An unexpected slump in half time results at hypermarket to foods group Wheatheaf Distribution & Trading knocked £4.5m off the value of the shares yesterday as the shares sank 38p to 180p.

On a turnover up from £170m to £216m, pre-tax profits slithered from £2.4m to £1.5m in the 28 weeks to September 10.

The joker was the Carrefour hypermarket division. A downturn in profits at the three original outlets and a £450,000 loss from the new Birmingham superstore left the division with a near £1m shortfall.

The Tesco-inspired price cutting at Carrefour knocked the feet under the store only weeks after it had started up. It shows no signs of abating. Company secretary Mr Victor Williams admitted last night that margins are being sacrificed to maintain market share.

However Birmingham is now breaking even, a better second half year from this division is expected.

Despite exceptional re-organization costs and the increasing pressure on wholesale margins divisional profits were slightly ahead of last year.

The group benefited from a five-year contribution of £148,000 from Spain and an almost unchanged £121,000 boost from France.

Warning shareholders that second half trading profits will not claw back the downturn of the first six months, Mr Williams comments that they will be similar to those of the same period last year.

Stripping out profits from property disposals, this forecast shows the group's profit around £5m for the full year pointing to a prospective yield of 4.6 per cent.

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Falconbridge Nickel slides into the red

Toronto. — Falconbridge Nickel Mines had a third quarter loss of \$14.56 against earnings of \$3.45 the year before.

The results include costs incurred at Sudbury during the period of the previously announced shutdown.

Falconbridge pointed out that write-off rates for capital and preproduction and development were changed on July 1 to reflect the economic lives of the specific assets in use. Those figures are bad but Falconbridge is only the latest big nickel group (Inco reported last week) to spell out what production cutbacks are doing to revenues.

First three months of new year show rise in sales and profits. Sales of vehicles from fleet operators have risen by 35 per cent.

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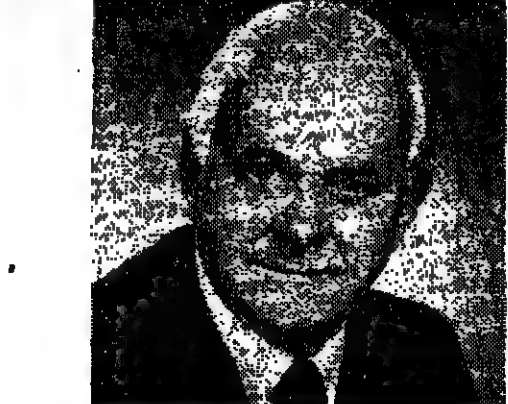
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SMITHS INDUSTRIES 1977



The very satisfactory results for 1976/77 demonstrate once more the value of our wide spread of businesses and of

Discount market

funds on Lombard Street yesterday. In the event, however, the bank was forced to unload the discount houses not only via purchases of a small amount of Treasury bills, but also by lending a large sum to overheat at 14 1/2 (5 per cent) to six or seven of the houses.

The assistance looked to have been very much overdone in order to "compensate" for a bottleneck somewhere in the system. Adding to the difficulties in the market was the fact that the clearing houses were not making a cautious note ahead of the mid-month make up today. Slightly above-target bank balances brought over from Monday were in the money's eye.

Rates held the 4 1/2 per cent area for much of the day. Closing balances were mainly found around 3 per cent, with just the occasional rate ruling off at 4 per cent.

Money Market Rates

Bank of Montreal 3 Months Lending Rate 5 1/2
Bank of Montreal 3 Months Deposit Rate 5 1/2
Clearing House Rate Rate 5 1/2
Weekend Money Rate 5 1/2
Overnight: 1/2 %
1 Month: 1 1/2 %
3 Months: 4 1/2 %
6 Months: 5 1/2 %
9 Months: 5 1/2 %
12 Months: 5 1/2 %
18 Months: 5 1/2 %
24 Months: 5 1/2 %
36 Months: 5 1/2 %
48 Months: 5 1/2 %
60 Months: 5 1/2 %
72 Months: 5 1/2 %
84 Months: 5 1/2 %
96 Months: 5 1/2 %
108 Months: 5 1/2 %
120 Months: 5 1/2 %
132 Months: 5 1/2 %
144 Months: 5 1/2 %
156 Months: 5 1/2 %
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252 Months: 5 1/2 %
264 Months: 5 1/2 %
276 Months: 5 1/2 %
288 Months: 5 1/2 %
300 Months: 5 1/2 %
312 Months: 5 1/2 %
324 Months: 5 1/2 %
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360 Months: 5 1/2 %
372 Months: 5 1/2 %
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876 Months: 5 1/2 %
888 Months: 5 1/2 %
900 Months: 5 1/2 %
912 Months: 5 1/2 %
924 Months: 5 1/2 %
936 Months: 5 1/2 %
948 Months: 5 1/2 %
960 Months: 5 1/2 %
972 Months: 5 1/2 %
984 Months: 5 1/2 %
1000 Months: 5 1/2 %

Prime Bank Bills (Days) (Trade) (Days)			
2 months	5-1/2%	3 months	5-1/2%
3 months	5-1/2%	4 months	5-1/2%
4 months	5-1/2%	5 months	5-1/2%
5 months	5-1/2%	6 months	5-1/2%

Local Authority Bonds			
1 month	5-1/2%	1 month	5-1/2%
2 months	5-1/2%	2 months	5-1/2%
3 months	5-1/2%	3 months	5-1/2%
4 months	5-1/2%	4 months	5-1/2%
5 months	5-1/2%	5 months	5-1/2%
6 months	5-1/2%	6 months	5-1/2%

Secondary (100) SFC Rates (%)			
1 month	5-1/2%	1 month	5-1/2%
2 months	5-1/2%	2 months	5-1/2%
3 months	5-1/2%	3 months	5-1/2%
4 months	5-1/2%	4 months	5-1/2%
5 months	5-1/2%	5 months	5-1/2%
6 months	5-1/2%	6 months	5-1/2%

Local Authority Markets (%)			
1 month	5-1/2%	1 month	5-1/2%
2 months	5-1/2%	2 months	5-1/2%
3 months	5-1/2%	3 months	5-1/2%
4 months	5-1/2%	4 months	5-1/2%
5 months	5-1/2%	5 months	5-1/2%
6 months	5-1/2%	6 months	5-1/2%

Interbank Market (%)			
1 month	5-1/2%	1 month	5-1/2%
2 months	5-1/2%	2 months	5-1/2%
3 months	5-1/2%	3 months	5-1/2%
4 months	5-1/2%	4 months	5-1/2%
5 months	5-1/2%	5 months	5-1/2%
6 months	5-1/2%	6 months	5-1/2%

Per Cent Foreign Market (12 Months) (%)			
1 month	5-1/2%	1 month	5-1/2%
2 months	5-1/2%	2 months	5-1/2%
3 months	5-1/2%	3 months	5-1/2%
4 months	5-1/2%	4 months	5-1/2%
5 months	5-1/2%	5 months	5-1/2%
6 months	5-1/2%	6 months	5-1/2%

Foreign Money Rate (12 Months) (%)			
1 month	5-1/2%	1 month	5-1/2%
2 months	5-1/2%	2 months	5-1/2%
3 months	5-1/2%	3 months	5-1/2%
4 months	5-1/2%	4 months	5-1/2%
5 months	5-1/2%	5 months	5-1/2%
6 months	5-1/2%	6 months	5-1/2%

Sugar market opens

Hongkong, Nov. 15.—The Hongkong raw sugar market opened today with 712 lots

[illegible]

19A	12%	Samdstrand	37%	3%
19B	12%	Polynya	37%	6%
19C	12%	Southco	37%	2%
20A	25%	Texaco	37%	27%
20B	25%	Texas East Trans	4%	4%
20C	25%	Texas Inst	20%	2%
20D	25%	Texas Utilitie	20%	2%
20E	30%	Textron	20%	2%
21A	22%	TWA	3%	3%
21B	22%	Travelers Corp	2%	2%
21C	22%	TRW Inc	3%	3%
21D	22%	UAI Inc	1%	1%
21E	22%	Unilever Ltd	2%	2%
21F	22%	Uniliver NV	1%	1%
21G	22%	Union Bancorp	1%	1%
21H	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
21I	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
21J	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
21K	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
21L	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
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21Q	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
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21U	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
21V	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
21W	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
21X	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
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23Y	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
23Z	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%
24A	22%	Union Carbide	1%	1%

15%	25%	United Brands	2%	25%
15%	25%	United States	2%	25%
15%	25%	US Merch & Man	2%	25%
15%	25%	US Industries	2%	25%
15%	25%	US Steel	2%	25%
15%	25%	Ud Technol	2%	25%
15%	25%	Wachovia	2%	25%
15%	25%	Warner Comm	2%	25%
15%	25%	Warner Lambert	2%	25%
15%	25%	Wells Fargo	2%	25%
15%	25%	Westvaco	2%	25%
15%	25%	Westinghouse Elec	2%	25%
15%	25%	Weyerhaeuser	2%	25%
15%	25%	Whirlpool	2%	25%
15%	25%	Wm. W. Wrigley	2%	25%
15%	25%	Woolworth	2%	25%
15%	25%	Xerox Corp.	2%	25%
15%	25%	Yamaha	2%	25%

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Onshore & Offshore

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145.3	Prop Grvch (29)	169.0	Land
145.3	Do (A)	167.4	Land
146.0	AG Bond (29)	178.5	Land
146.4	Do (A)	174.1	Land
150.1	Abb Nat PG (29)	147.0	Reg
150.0	Do (A)	146.5	Reg
150.0	Inv Investment (29)	150.0	Inv
150.0	Do (A)	150.0	Inv
154.4	Equity Fund	165.0	Wd
154.4	Do (A)	167.4	Wd
155.0	Money Fund	145.0	Wd
155.0	Do (A)	139.8	Wd
160.0	Accumulator Fund	100.0	Wd
160.0	Gift Excd	100.0	Wd
160.0	Do (A)	100.0	Wd
165.0	Ret Annuity (29)	167.0	Wd
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PA c £4,000

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European public relations with one of the world's largest international banks. That's what we're offering the experienced PA, a man or woman aged 25+, keen to take on more responsibility and more involvement in a fast-moving environment.

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You will be working for the Financial Director, and will play an important part in a small executive team. It follows that you must be a self-starter, becoming deeply involved in your work, and accustomed to dealing with management at the highest levels with efficiency and enjoyment.

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This is an interesting appointment for the right type of person as it does not involve dealing entirely with company affairs nor is it just a desk job. He/she will probably have 'A' levels, be in their early 30s, a car owner, possessing tact and a lively personality.

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Telephone: 073-522 3821

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Executive Secretary c.£4,000.

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The actual starting salary will depend on qualifications and experience, and will be supported by a full range of benefits, which includes good pension and sick pay schemes, 4 weeks' holiday, a subsidised staff restaurant, and a generous staff discount.

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£3,524 p.a.

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This is a responsible and challenging position requiring excellent secretarial skills, initiative and the ability to deal with high pressure, high interest work.

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Closing date for applications 5 December, 1977.

ALFA ROMEO (GB) LTD.

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How does £6,200 per contract after tax appeal to you?

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We are looking for a bright intelligent person to work in our central personnel department which is located at our head office between Fleet Street and Holborn. The work will cover most aspects of salary and wage administration as well as general personnel administration.

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For further information please telephone or write to:

Miss A. Redman,
The Exchange Telegraph
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East Harding Street,
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Young Managing Director of exciting international promotions company based in West London, requires responsible, well-groomed P.A./Shorthand Secretary.

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Salary negotiable, circa £4,000 with attractive fringe benefits.

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N.W.2. TO £4,500 NEG.

WE NEED AN EXCEPTIONAL PA/SECRETARY with boundless energy and the ability to keep one jump ahead in work. The post is a top level position in a fast moving, successful company. The responsibilities of the post are extensive and demanding.

You will have to be a self-starter, with initiative, a good knowledge of shorthand and typing, and a good knowledge of the business. You will also have to be a good listener, a good communicator, and a good team player.

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Carer minded person aged 20+. Salary £4,000. Subsidised restaurant, 4 weeks' holiday. Excellent company to work for. Please contact:

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This post as Secretary to the Financial Director of a very well known city company, requires a good standard of education and competent secretarial skills. Positively NO SCHEDULE TYING involved. Good telephone manner essential. The company offers free lunch, an annual bonus, season ticket loan, and a high standard of personnel concern and career planning.

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RANGE ROVER 1976

Very attractive, chrome bumpers and mirrors. Wholesome and safe. 1000 cc. 1600 cc. 1800 cc. 2000 cc. 2500 cc. 3000 cc. 3500 cc. 4000 cc. 4500 cc. 5000 cc. 5500 cc. 6000 cc. 6500 cc. 7000 cc. 7500 cc. 8000 cc. 8500 cc. 9000 cc. 9500 cc. 10000 cc. 10500 cc. 11000 cc. 11500 cc. 12000 cc. 12500 cc. 13000 cc. 13500 cc. 14000 cc. 14500 cc. 15000 cc. 15500 cc. 16000 cc. 16500 cc. 17000 cc. 17500 cc. 18000 cc. 18500 cc. 19000 cc. 19500 cc. 20000 cc. 20500 cc. 21000 cc. 21500 cc. 22000 cc. 22500 cc. 23000 cc. 23500 cc. 24000 cc. 24500 cc. 25000 cc. 25500 cc. 26000 cc. 26500 cc. 27000 cc. 27500 cc. 28000 cc. 28500 cc. 29000 cc. 29500 cc. 30000 cc. 30500 cc. 31000 cc. 31500 cc. 32000 cc. 32500 cc. 33000 cc. 33500 cc. 34000 cc. 34500 cc. 35000 cc. 35500 cc. 36000 cc. 36500 cc. 37000 cc. 37500 cc. 38000 cc. 38500 cc. 39000 cc. 39500 cc. 40000 cc. 40500 cc. 41000 cc. 41500 cc. 42000 cc. 42500 cc. 43000 cc. 43500 cc. 44000 cc. 44500 cc. 45000 cc. 45500 cc. 46000 cc. 46500 cc. 47000 cc. 47500 cc. 48000 cc. 48500 cc. 49000 cc. 49500 cc. 50000 cc. 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